

BOOKNEWS from

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sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919
<http://poisonedpen.com>

4014 N. Goldwater Blvd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
480-947-2974



Happy holidays to all...and remember, a book is a present you can open again and again....

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

Some Events will be webcast at <http://new.livestream.com/poisonedpen>.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 2 7:00 PM

Gini Koch signs [Universal Alien](#) (Daw \$7.99) 10th in series

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3 7:00 PM

Lisa Scottoline signs [Betrayed](#) (St Martins \$27.99) Rosato & Associates

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime discusses [Christmas at the Mysterious Bookshop](#) (\$15.95)

MONDAY DECEMBER 9 7:00 PM

Bob Boze Bell signs [The 66 Kid: Raised on the Mother Road](#) (Voyageur Press \$30) Growing up on Route 66. Don't overlook the famous La Posada Hotel's [Turquoise Room Cookbook](#) (\$40), Signed by Chef Sharpe, flourishing today on the Mother Road

TUESDAY DECEMBER 10 7:30 PM

EJ Copperman signs [Inspector Specter: Haunted Guesthouse Mystery #6](#) (Berkley (\$7.99)

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12 5:00-8:00 PM 25th Anniversary Party
The cash registers will be closed. No book sales, no book signings (yours or ours).

Poisoned Pen Open House with bestsellers Diana Gabaldon, Craig Johnson, Jenn McKinlay, Shona Patel, James Sallis, Dana Stabenow and Poisoned Press authors, Jana Bommersbach, Donis Casey, Fred Ramsay, Jon Talton, Betty Webb, and more. Give-aways, special Poisoned Pen bags. Food. Fun. AND James Sallis' Three Dog Band.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

Craig Johnson returns to sit and sign all his books including [Wait for Signs: 12 Longmire Stories](#) (Viking \$22) and [The Spirit of Steamboat](#) (\$12.99)—[order both](#) for one price (\$30)

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13 2:00 PM

Jane Cleland signs [Blood Rubies](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Antiques expert Josie Prescott
Cleland will present a talk, "My Other Life as an Antiques Dealer" where she gained the craftsmanship needed to write the Prescott books.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14 12:00 PM

Amy K. Nichols signs [Now That You're Here: Duplexity Part I](#) (Random \$16.99) Ages 12+

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18 7:00 PM Christmas Party
Hardboiled Crime discusses Cormac McCarthy's [No Country for Old Men](#) (\$15)

CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27 2:00 PM

David Freed signs [Voodoo Ridge](#) (Permanent Press \$29) Cordell Logan #3

THURSDAY JANUARY 8 7:00 PM

Charles Todd signs [A Fine Summer's Day](#) (Morrow \$26.99) Ian Rutledge

FRIDAY JANUARY 9 7:00 PM Thrillers!

Matt Lewis signs [Endgame](#) (\$19.99 trade paperback) Debut thriller

Brad Taylor signs [No Fortunate Son](#) (Dutton \$26.95) Pike Logan

SATURDAY JANUARY 10 2:00 PM Mystery Tea

Fred Ramsay signs [The Wolf and the Lamb](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 or \$14.95) 3rd Jerusalem Mystery with The Rabban Gamaliel (and the crucifixion)

TUESDAY JANUARY 13 7:00 PM Debut

Mette Ivie Harrison signs [The Bishop's Wife](#) (Soho \$26.95) First Mystery Club Pick

THURSDAY JANUARY 15 Western Crime

Robert Knott signs [Robert B. Parker's The Bridge](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Cole & Hitch

2014 ANTHONY AWARD WINNERS

Best Novel: WK Krueger, [Ordinary Grace](#) (\$16.99)
Best First Novel: Matt Coyle, [Yesterday's Echo](#) (\$26.95)
Best Paperback Original: Catriona McPherson, [As She Left It](#) (\$14.99)
Best Nonfiction: Daniel Stashower, [Hour of Peril](#) (\$16.99)

2014 BARRY AWARDS

Best Novel: WK Krueger, [Ordinary Grace](#) (\$16.99)
Best First Novel: Barry Lancet, [Japantown](#) (\$15.99)
Best Paperback Original: Adrian McKinty, [I Hear the Sirens in the Street](#) (\$15.95)
Best Thriller: Taylor Stevens, [The Doll](#) (\$14)

2014 MACAVITY AWARD WINNERS

Best Novel: WK Krueger, [Ordinary Grace](#) (\$16.99)
Best First Novel: Terry Shames, [A Killing at Cotton Hill](#) (\$15.95)
Best Nonfiction: Daniel Stashower, [Hour of Peril](#) (\$16.99)
Best Historical Mystery: David Morrell, [Murder as a Fine Art](#) (\$16)

2014 SHAMUS AWARD WINNERS

Best PI Novel: Brad Parks, [The Good Cop](#) (\$24.99)
Best First PI Novel: Lachlan Smith, [Bear Is Broken](#) (\$15)
Best Paperback PI Novel: PJ Parrish, [Heart of Ice](#) (\$7.99)

WE WILL MISS...

PD James, at 94 in Oxford. Read the wonderful [obituary](#) in the *NY Times* by Marilyn Stasio and [this one](#) also from the UK

EVENT BOOKS

Bell, Bob Boze. [The 66 Kid; Raised on the Mother Road](#) (Voyager Press \$30) Growing up on Route 66. The many-faceted Bell, musician, artist, Arizona historian, author, publisher, radio and TV personality, family man, has journeyed down many roads, but they all lead back to Kingman, Arizona where he “misspent” his youth in the 1950s and ‘60s. His dad owned a gas station along Route 66 and many adventures developed along “the world’s most famous two-lane blacktop.” I drove from Palo Alto to Chicago my junior year at Stanford taking in vast stretches (with a detour to the newly-opened Chaco Canyon in New Mexico). That was 1961 when *Route 66* was a hot TV show so the ride was full of romance and glamour, many stretches of it beautiful and exotic if you’re from Chicago. Today Winslow, Arizona, is one place to visit 66 and a stay at the glorious La Posada Hotel, and a meal in the Turquoise Room, is both a blast from the past and an incredible treat. After dinner you take your glass of wine and head out back to settle down and watch the trains go by....

Cleland, Jane K. [Blood Rubies](#) (St Martins \$25.99). How fortunate that the range of antiques that Josie Prescott’s auction house expertise can cover is formidably large. Each investigation delves into a new area, carefully researched by Cleland to support her plots. Here we get Fabergé in the form of an unlisted Spring Egg, made for the Czarina in 1917, with a history saying it left Russia with the jeweler’s wife hidden in a snow globe. The tiny mechanisms include five ruby-red tulips—for good reason: they are rubies. Cleland imagines a young chef there in Rocky Point, NH, Ana Yatsin, who makes custom egg-shaped cakes showcasing Fabergé cake-art. Ana is being filmed for reality TV, on her way to becoming a celebrity chef. Ana hires Josie to appraise the

real egg and snow globe, but when Josie arrives chez Ana for the job, she finds investment guru Jason there dead and the snow globe smashed, the egg missing, and... bad news all around. But wait... Annoyingly we can’t order paperbacks of Josie’s 8 earlier investigations.

Copperman, EJ. [Inspector Specter](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Detective Lieutenant Anita McElone is one of Harbor Haven’s finest. She’s also a hard-boiled ghost skeptic. So when she shows up on the doorstep of Alison Kerby’s Haunted Guesthouse to ask for supernatural help in solving the murder of her former partner, it’s hard to tell which woman is more flabbergasted. But McElone is dead serious, so Alison promises to help in any way she can—even asking her resident ghosts, Paul and Maxie, for help with the case. As Paul’s spirit source reveals some troubling information about the deceased detective, Alison wrestles with what to tell McElone. First, though, she has to find her... 6th in the Haunted Guesthouse Series. [Click here](#) to order earlier ones.

Freed, David. [Voodoo Ridge](#) (Permanent Press \$29). “For once, Cordell Logan, ex-military assassin turned flight instructor, is happy. After years of trying, he finally has reconciled with his beautiful ex-wife Savannah, and together they are flying to Lake Tahoe to retie the knot. But as Logan pilots his plane over the spectacular Sierra Nevada, he spots something metal protruding from a snow bank in a remote mountain canyon. It turns out to be the wreckage of a small plane that disappeared during a snowstorm nearly 60 years ago. The first two novels in Freed’s Cordell Logan series were peppered with humor as we watched the protagonist struggle to reconcile his propensity for violence with his newfound Buddhist philosophy. The threat to Savannah leaves less room for humor in “Voodoo Ridge,” although Logan’s encounters with his fiercely independent cat and his quirky landlady, Mrs. Schmulowitz, provide occasional moments of comic relief. But the tension-packed plot and the fine prose, including well-drawn characters and vivid portraits of the natural landscape, are just what fans have come to expect from this author.”—Bruce DeSilva, Edgar-winning author-reviewer

Harrison, Mette. [The Bishop’s Wife](#) (Soho \$26.95). “Set against the unusual backdrop of a tight-knit Mormon congregation, *The Bishop’s Wife* is both a terrific crime novel and a wrenching story of faith, doubt, and personal tragedy.”—Michael Wallace. “Turns a critical eye toward some long-held norms of a historically patriarchal religion. Throw in a wickedly twisted mystery – actually, two – and you have the makings of a page-turner that is revealing and thought-provoking.”—*Kirkus Reviews*. Some of you may fondly recall the mysteries by Robert Irvine set amidst Mormons with a sleuth called Moroni.

Knott, Robert. [Robert B. Parker’s The Bridge](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Territorial Marshals Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch are back in Appaloosa, where their work enforcing the law has been exceptionally quiet. All that is about to change. An ominous storm rolls in, and along with it a band of night riders with a devious scheme, who show up at the Rio Blanco camp, where a 300-foot bridge is under construction. Appaloosa’s Sheriff Sledge Driskill and his deputies are the first to respond, but as the storm grows more threatening, news of troubles at the bridge escalate and the Sher-

iff and his deputies go missing. Virgil and Everett saddle up to sort things out but before they do the hard drinking, Beauregard Beauchamp arrives in Appaloosa with his Theatrical Extravaganza troupe and the promise of the best in lively entertainment west of the Mississippi. With the troupe comes a lovely and mysterious fortune-teller who is set on saving Everett from imminent but indefinable danger. The trouble at the bridge, the missing lawmen, the new arrivals, and Everett's shoot-out in front of Hal's Café aren't the only things on Cole and Hitch's plate as a gang of unsavory soldiers ease into town with a shady alibi, shadier intentions, and a soon-to-be-discovered wake of destruction. [Click here](#) to order earlier "Parkers" by Knott.

Koch, Gini. [Universal Alien](#) (Daw \$7.99). 10th in this sci-fi/adventure series. The process of saving her planet – yet again – is violently interrupted when Kitty is thrown into an alternate reality. "Aliens, danger, and romance make this a fast-paced, wittily-written sci-fi romantic comedy." –*Library Journal*. [Click here](#) to order the first 9 Aliens.

Lewis, Matt. [Endgame](#) (\$19.99 trade paperback). President Andy Blackman is two years into his first term when the United States is rocked by another act of terrorism, followed by declarations of more to come. The battle to be fought being borderless, he enlists the help of top CIA-counterterrorism operative Jeb Hodge and Special Agent Brian O'Grady of the FBI to bring those responsible to justice. With the help of alluring CIA analyst Paige Thompson, the team discovers that the religious leadership in Iran has been quarterbacking the offensive to realize a 50 year old proclamation that will change the world as we know it. The razor-sharp instrument of Jeb Hodge and company are necessary to prevent Iran's endgame from being accomplished. The stakes couldn't be higher...

Nichols, Amy. [Now That You're Here](#) (Knopf \$16.9). A YA debut from a James Sallis student earns a coveted Starred Review: "Danny Ogden is a graffiti artist for an extremist sect when an explosion thrusts him into a Phoenix classroom on a parallel Earth—ours. Eevee Solomon, 15, is his only connection to home; a romantic acquaintance in his semi-totalitarian dimension, she's a brilliant science nerd in this one, and perhaps the only person who can help him return to his world. Debut novelist Nichols explores this jarring turn of events from both characters' perspectives as a disoriented Danny muddles through a world where his parents are dead while Eevee must reconcile that the Danny who tormented her best friend has been replaced by a boy with whom she's falling in love. Nichols infuses the story with a smattering of science fiction and science fact, while making a welcome departure from the stereotype of the book-smart outcast trying to fit in. These geeks own their intelligence like a badge of honor, using science to help a friend and explore strange new worlds. Riveting in its own right, the story sets the stage for a mirror-image sequel, which will follow the other Danny and Eevee. Ages 12–up."

Ramsay, Fred. [The Wolf and the Lamb](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 or \$14.95). The *PW* Starred and Boxed Review (meaning extra special)! "Ramsay audaciously sets his outstanding third Jerusalem mystery at the very time of Jesus' arrest. When Pontius Pilate, emperor's prefect of Judea and overseer of Palestine, is arrested for murdering his rival, Aurelius Decimus, all the evidence is against him. Pilate was caught literally red-handed, covered in

blood at the scene of the crime, with his dagger stuck in Decimus' corpse. Pilate insists he was framed. Since he doesn't believe he will get justice from his Roman countrymen, he turns to Rabban Gamaliel, chief rabbi of the Sanhedrin, the ruling body of first-century Israel. The rabbi's commitment to justice compels him to accept the case, despite his loathing for his "client" and the consequences to his own standing if his fellow Jews get wind of his role. Meanwhile, the Dagger Men, a sect of Jewish assassins, begin their reign of terror. Ramsay brings the tumult of the time to vivid life while neatly integrating the events leading to Christ's crucifixion into the whodunit story line."

To order *The Eighth Veil* and *Holy Smoke*, plus the prequel *Judas: The Gospel of Betrayal*, [click here](#). Ramsay lives in Phoenix so though he isn't signing at The Pen until January you can order signed books as gifts in December.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Betrayed](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Scottoline, a Philly lawyer herself, has clearly loved creating the all-women firm Rosato & Associates, then giving the various lawyers therein starring roles in her legal thrillers. This time out it's gutsy Judy Carrier, who has yet to make partner and chafes at Bennie Rosato's control—and especially at being assigned 75 asbestos case referrals. It's big bucks, but boring work. Plus Mary DiNunzio, newly minted partner, has her mind on her upcoming wedding. Judy's down and sinks lower when a call from her beloved Aunt Barb reveals a breast-cancer diagnosis—and Judy's disapproving mother's arrival from Santa Barbara. And then Barb's caregiver, Iris, a Hispanic who works part-time in the local mushroom industry, is murdered. And leaves unexplained stashes of cash.... There are major surprises as this unusual case unfolds—don't think this is a girlfriends' book—and you will enjoy Judy's end game. [Click here](#) to order other Scottoline fare.

Taylor, Brad. [No Fortunate Son](#) (Dutton \$26.95). "In Taylor's edge-of-your-seat seventh Pike Logan thriller, the head of the top-secret counterterrorism unit known as the Taskforce, Col. Kurt Hale, orders Pike and fellow operative Jennifer Cahill to locate his niece, Kylie, a University of Virginia student on exchange to Cambridge University. Terrorists have kidnapped Kylie along with several other family members of key U.S. government officials and are holding them for ransom somewhere in Europe. Essentially fired from Taskforce for disobeying orders in *Days of Rage*, Logan must find Kylie with no support other than Cahill's and very little to go on. The stakes rise when they discover that one of the kidnap victims is the American vice president's son—who was working at a NATO intelligence center in England—and that the terrorists may be planning something much more nefarious than a simple hostage exchange...nonstop action, intricate story line, and jaw-dropping plot twists..."—*PW*. [Click here](#) to order the first 6 Logans.

Todd, Charles. [A Fine Summer's Day](#) (Morrow \$26.99). On a fine summer's day in June, 1914, Ian Rutledge pays little notice to the assassination of an archduke in Sarajevo. An Inspector at Scotland Yard, he is planning to propose to the woman whom he deeply loves, despite intimations from friends and family that she may not be the wisest choice. To the north on this warm and gentle day, another man in love—a Scottish Highlander—shows his own dear girl the house he will build for her in September. While back in England, a son awaits the undertaker in the wake of his widowed mother's death. This death will set off a series of murders across England, seemingly unconnected, that Rutledge

will race to solve in the weeks before the fateful declaration in August that will forever transform his world—and force him to choose between the Yard and his country. The fact that we know how it comes out at war’s end doesn’t alter the suspense or the agony.... [Click here](#) to order the previous Ian Rutledges.

GIFT IDEAS

Bell, Bob Boze. [The 66 Kid; Raised on the Mother Road Signed](#) (Voyageur Press \$30) Growing up on Route 66. Don’t overlook the famous La Posada Hotel’s [Turquoise Room Cookbook](#) (\$40), Signed by Chef Sharpe, flourishing today on the Mother Road.

Blackwell, Elizabeth. [While Beauty Slept](#) (\$16). A retelling of the Sleeping Beauty story as seen through the eyes of Elise, a loyal servant and confidante to the royal family... Blackwell, previously a reporter and romance writer, makes her historical fiction debut with a gripping tale full of romance, secrets, and promises made and broken. This beautiful, original reinterpretation of a classic story is engrossing and often surprising. Recommended for fans of fairy tale retellings or gothic historical fiction.”—*LJ* Starred Review

Bradlee, Ben, Jr. [Kid: The Immortal Life of Ted Williams](#) (\$25 trade paperback). Williams was the best hitter in baseball history. His batting average of .406 in 1941 has not been topped since, and no player who has hit more than 500 home runs has a higher career batting average. Those totals would have been even higher if Williams had not left baseball for nearly five years in the prime of his career to serve as a Marine pilot in WWII and Korea. He hit home runs farther than any player before him—and traveled a long way himself. Born in 1918 in San Diego, Ted would spend most of his life disguising his Mexican heritage. During his 22 years with the Boston Red Sox, he often shocked fans and the press, and his domestic life was turbulent. I like to remember that in his final at bat, he hit a home run!

Brotton, Jeremy. [Smithsonian Great Maps](#) (DK \$25). Brotton, Professor of Renaissance Studies at the University of London, explores and explains amazing maps. From Ptolemy’s world map to the Hereford’s Mappa Mundi, through Mercator’s map of the world to the latest maps of the Moon and Google Earth, Great Maps provides a fascinating overview of cartography through the ages. Revealing the stories behind 55 historical maps by analyzing graphic close-ups, Great Maps also profiles key cartographers and explorers to look why each map was commissioned, who it was for and how they influenced navigation, propaganda, power, art, and politics. I’m a map junkie and so recommend this as well as his [History of the World in 12 Maps](#) (\$20 trade paper) which he produced in 2012. I enjoyed the philosophical content a lot. Both books link the evolution of ideas to that of maps.

Dewdney, Anna. [Llama, Llama, Red Pajama Signed Gift](#) (Viking \$25). A Picture Book comes with a CD read-aloud. For little readers.

Ellsworth, Lawrence. [The Big Book of Swashbuckling Adventure](#) (Pegasus \$25). The word “swashbuckler” conjures up an indelible image: a hero who’s a bit of a rogue but has his own code of honor, an adventurer with laughter on his lips and a flashing sword in his hand. The swashbuckler tradition was born out of legends like those of the Knights of the Round Table and of Robin Hood, revived in the early 19th century by Romantic Movement authors such as Sir Walter Scott. The genre caught hold with the publication of Alexandre Dumas’ *The Three*

Musketeers in 1844, and for the next century it was arguably the world’s leading form of adventure fiction. Featuring selections by twenty hugely popular writers from the last century including Rafael Sabatini; Johnston McCulley (creator of the Zorro character); Alexandre Dumas; Arthur Conan Doyle; and Pierce Egan (author of Robin Hood), this anthology is dedicated to the swashbuckler’s roots. Most of these stories have been out of print for decades; some have never before been collected in book form. Enjoy thrilling rescues, daring escapes, dreadful peril, and glorious adventure, masterfully curated by Ellsworth.

Evans, Richard Paul. [The Mistletoe Promise](#) (SimonSchuster \$19.99). One November day, stranger approaches divorced Elise in the mall food court. Though she recognizes the man from her building, Elise has never formally met him. Tired of spending the holidays alone, the man offers her a proposition. For the next eight weeks—until the evening of December 24—he suggests that they pretend to be a couple. He draws up a contract with four rules: 1. No deep, probing personal questions. 2. No drama. 3. No telling anyone the truth about the relationship. The contract is void on Christmas Day. The lonely, distrustful Elise surprises herself by agreeing to the idea. As the charade progresses, the safety of her fake relationship begins to mend her badly broken heart. But just as she begins to find joy again, her long-held secret threatens to unravel the emerging relationship.

Garten, Ina. [Make it Ahead](#) (Crown \$35). A Barefoot Contessa Cookbook, one of many out for holiday entertaining and gifts.

Johnson, Marilyn. [Lives in Ruins: Archaeologists and the Seductive Lure of Human Rubble](#) (Harper \$25.99). Johnson, who celebrated librarians in *This Book Is Overdue!* and obituary writers in *The Dead Beat*, here turns her attention to another underappreciated profession. She had long been captivated by the idea of digging in the dirt and bringing up treasure in the form of human history, and was awed by the men and women who do that work. “Archeologists are plagued by low pay, scant job security and the pressures of a world that values many things—real estate, the pace of progress or simply the future over the past—more than it values potsherds and human remains. With *Lives in Ruins*, Johnson pays homage to and learns about these individuals and their often-dirty, often-uncomfortable, always-intriguing work. In pursuit of archeology’s magic, romance, filth and smells, Johnson enrolls in several different field schools, working as an archeologist-in-training (with varying degrees of success).”—ShelfAwareness

Lepore, Jill. [The Secret History of Wonder Woman](#) (Knopf \$29.95). Wonder Woman, created in 1941, is the most popular female superhero of all time. Like every other superhero, Wonder Woman has a secret identity. Unlike every other superhero, she has also has a secret history. Harvard historian and *New Yorker* staff writer Jill Lepore has uncovered an astonishing trove of documents, including the never-before-seen private papers of William Moulton Marston, Wonder Woman’s creator. Beginning in his undergraduate years at Harvard, Marston was influenced by early suffragists and feminists, starting with Emmeline Pankhurst, who was banned from speaking on campus in 1911, when Marston was a freshman. In the 1920s, Marston and his wife, Sadie Elizabeth Holloway, brought into their home Olive Byrne, the niece of Margaret Sanger, one of the most influential feminists of the twentieth century. The Marston family story is

a tale of drama, intrigue, and irony. In the 1930s, Marston and Byrne wrote a regular column for *Family Circle* celebrating conventional family life, even as they themselves pursued lives of extraordinary nonconformity. Marston, internationally known as an expert on truth—he invented the lie detector test—lived a life of secrets, only to spill them on the pages of Wonder Woman. In her cultural and personal history Lepore presents the missing link in the history of the struggle for women’s rights. I still lust for WW’s bracelets.

Loren, Sophia. [Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow: My Life](#) (Atria \$28). Sophia Loren is known for her striking beauty and dramatic roles with costars Cary Grant, Frank Sinatra, Marlon Brando, Gregory Peck, Jack Lemmon, and Paul Newman. She was the first artist to win an Oscar for a foreign language performance and has had a vibrant and varied career in Hollywood, Paris, and Italy. Now, for the first time, Sophia Loren tells her incredible life story from the struggles of her childhood in war-torn Naples to her life as a screen legend, icon of elegance, and devoted mother with winning charm and candor. **We will have 10 Signed copies; first come, first served.**

Ortburg, Mallory. [Texts from Jane Eyre](#) (Holt \$23). “If this book were liquor, I’d buy shots for the whole bar. If it were a YouTube video, I’d be walking around showing it to strangers on my phone. But it’s a book, so I’m going to buy multiple copies and hand them out to everyone I know who loves to read. The combination of irreverent, modern text-speak and classic literary characters makes for one hilarious imaginary conversation after another. The exchange between the husband and wife from Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s *The Yellow Wallpaper* had me snort-laughing! Every English major, every bookseller, every reader of any sort needs this book!”—Indie Next Pick

Penzler, Otto, ed. [Death Sentences Signed by Rankin and Conolly](#) (Zeus \$45). *Stories of Deathly Books, Murderous Booksellers, Lethal Literature*, all from great crime writers. Irresistible. Contributors are Jeffrey Deaver, Andrew Taylor, Laura Lippman, C.J. Box, Anne Perry, Ken Bruen, Thomas H. Cook, Mickey Spillane & Max Allan Collins, Nelson DeMille, and John Conolly, Introduction by Ian Rankin.

Thornton, Sarah. [33 Artists in 3 Acts](#) (Norton \$26.95). As an art writer for the *Economist* and occasional contributor to the *New Yorker*, Thornton has a journalist’s touch and makes no attempt to play the role of critic. She sees what she sees—like Koons in a hot auditorium, where he “glistens rather than sweats,” or a small Venice Biennale audience of “two blondes with complicated handbags and beige Uggs.” Her interviews often elicit surprising comments from her subjects, such as Michael Elmgreen’s observation that “if I didn’t behave myself as an artist, I’d be reborn as a curator or an interior decorator” or Cattelan’s admission that “I speak through images because I can’t talk.” Turn Thornton loose in artists’ personal lives and you are reassured that art is refreshingly alive regardless of its who, where, or what.

Wallace, Daniel. [Star Wars: The Imperial Handbook Deluxe Edition](#) (Epic \$99.99). This “relic from the years before the Battle of Yavin” is impressive from the moment it comes out of its box: spring-loaded doors on the case open to lights and sound effects, revealing a slim hardcover inside. This book—a handbook of the Imperial Army, Navy and Stormtrooper Corps, including

details on Imperial weapons and technologies—is just as impressive. Written as a commanders’ guidebook, this copy fell into the hands of Luke Skywalker, who provided it to the Rebel Alliance as a resource. “Daniel Wallace (The Jedi Path and numerous other Star Wars reference guides) has done an impressive job making the piece feel authentic. The original text of the book is ostensibly a relic dating from before the Battle of Yavin; annotations from Alliance commanders and soldiers (including Han and Leia) add to the realism of the conceit. Any fan of Star Wars will want this glowing case, filled with full-color pages and detailed illustrations, on her shelf.”—Entymology of a Bookworm

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. [Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography](#) (South \$39.95). For generations, the Little House books have stood as the canonical versions of Laura Ingalls Wilder’s childhood story. *Little House in the Big Woods*, the first in the series, was published by Harper & Brothers in 1932; the last, *These Happy Golden Years*, arrived in 1943. Over the course of seven “chapter books” for young readers, the Ingalls family moves west from Wisconsin to South Dakota over the course of the 1870s and 1880s. (Another novel, *Farmer Boy*, covers Laura’s husband’s childhood, and a final adult novel about Laura’s early married life, *The First Four Years*, was published posthumously in 1971. But, in fact, in 1930, when she was 63, Wilder finished her first draft of *Pioneer Girl*, a first-person, nonfictional account of 16 years of her childhood. There’s no indication she thought of the book, written by hand on six large tablets, as a children’s book. Lane helped refine it and sent it to her agent, though he dismissed it: “A fine old lady was sitting in a rocking chair and telling a story chronologically.” *Pioneer Girl* never did find a home at a publisher, and eventually its stories were put in the third person, fictionalized, and sprinkled throughout Wilder’s Little House series. Here is Wilder’s complete first draft of her own story, enhanced by scrupulous and wide-ranging new research.

Zevin, Gabrielle. [The Storied Life of A J Fikry](#) (\$14.95). A longtime bestseller (and a Modern Firsts Club Pick in hardcover) recalls John Dunning’s *Booked to Die*, Charlie Lovett’s *The Bookman’s Tale*, and Zafon’s *Shadow of the Wind*—bibliomysteries to die for. But Zevin’s tale isn’t so much a mystery, although there’s some suspense, as a coming-of-age-in-books tale. Here’s what *Booklist* says: “In this sweet, uplifting homage to bookstores, Zevin perfectly captures the joy of connecting people and books. A. J. Fikry, the cantankerous owner of Island Books, is despondent after losing his beloved wife and witnessing the ever-declining number of sales at his small, quirky bookstore. In short order, he loses all patience with the new Knightly Press sales rep, his prized rare edition of Tamerlane is stolen, and someone leaves a baby at his store. That baby immediately steals A. J.’s heart and unleashes a dramatic transformation. Suddenly, the picture-book section is overflowing with new titles, and the bookstore becomes home to a burgeoning number of book clubs. With business on the uptick and love in his heart, A. J. finds himself becoming an essential new part of his longtime community, going so far as to woo the aforementioned sales rep (who loves drinking Queequeg cocktails at the Pequod Restaurant). Filled with interesting characters, a deep knowledge of bookselling, wonderful critiques of classic titles, and very funny depictions of book clubs and author events, this will prove irresistible to book lovers everywhere.” “On top of all that, it is marvelously optimistic about the future of books and bookstores and the people who love both.” —*The*

And another book about bookstores and books, plus finding one's way, is Shelly King's [The Moment of Everything](#) (Grand Central \$15). Maggie left her South Carolina home for Silicon Valley in 2009 in the wake of her best friend Dizzy, a gay software genius. She got a hot job at ArGoNet but was "separated from payroll" at the start-up and is now whiling away her days at Dragonfly Used Books, a Mountain View institution. Surely something would come along other than sitting in the window reading romances and fighting with the other junior clerk, Jason. Then Dizzy insists she can network at a Bay Area book club and she agrees, even if it means reading *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (not her sort of romance). The Dragonfly used Penguin Classic turns out to be a hardcover with notes in the margins, notes between a pair of besotted lovers. Intrigued, Maggie begins a search for the lovers and their story and gets many surprises, especially about herself when the Dragonfly owner dies and the upscale Apollo (new) Books across the way makes a move....

FIRST NOVELS

Archer, Ursula. [Five](#) (St Martins \$25.99). We're in Austria where Detective Beatrice Kaspary is presented with a dismembered hand, two severed ears, and the corpse of a woman with tattoos on her feet. They form a strange combination of letters and numbers which are eventually revealed as map coordinates. The discovery plunges Kaspary into the world of geocaching, one filled with riddles, clues, and complexity. And the more gruesome the riddles someone is setting the police, the more Kaspary becomes a pawn in the perp's game. You may think this is a serial killer book, but in fact, it's not. And while the killer is clearly deranged, it's hard not to sympathize. A most unusual story from science journalist Archer who's written YA books. This is her first adult mystery.

Eskens, Allen. [The Life We Bury](#) (Seventh Street Books \$15.95 2014). *PW* called this title a "masterful debut," Our Karen Shaver agrees: "Joe Talbert is struggling to earn money for school while dealing with the demands of an alcoholic mother and needs of his autistic brother. His current stress is completing a class assignment to meet and write a biography of someone he doesn't know. Carl Iverson becomes his subject. Carl, a convicted murderer and rapist of a 14-year-old girl, has been given medical parole so he can be cared for while dying of pancreatic cancer. As Carl tells his story, Joe wonders how a decorated Vietnam Veteran who consistently demonstrated honor and loyalty could be guilty of such a brutal crime. With the help of his brother and neighbor, Joe digs deeper, and discovers that Carl did little to cooperate in his trial, never participating or protesting his sentence. When truths become evident, Joe begins a race against the cancer to exonerate Carl. One reviewer viewed this as a bonding of the brothers, and on one level, that is true. On another level, it is about Carl, much like many combat veterans whose physical body returns home, but whose soul remains on the battlefield. I found this book difficult to put down and it continues to resonate with me."

Harrison, Mette Ivie. [The Bishop's Wife Signed](#) (Soho \$26.95) places much of the context of *Gone Girl* into a Mormon community in Utah. Things we think we understand about a missing wife are upset as the book moves along. While I find the bishop's wife curiously passive, often lost in domestic detail, her narration underlines how people on the outside of households are reluctant

to act or embrace scenarios with no specific (criminal) foundation. It's a disturbing book that will intrigue and possibly annoy you. *PW* writes, "Harrison has been a more or less conservative Mormon since her teenage years, and she hopes to reach two audiences with *The Bishop's Wife*: a national audience willing to see an older Mormon mother as sympathetic, and a Mormon audience of women who are afraid to ask their own questions about religion. *The Bishop's Wife* has all the hallmarks of a twisted murder mystery: a missing wife, dark secrets, and an atmospheric setting. But its characters are Mormons, and Linda, the protagonist, is deeply involved with the church." This **First Mystery Pick** is out in Dec. and will be signed here Jan. 13.

Walker, Casey. [Last Days in Shanghai Signed](#) (Consortium \$26). This edgy first novel delivers a scathing indictment of congressional politics as it follows a young aide on a business trip to China. Walker's smart writing on a host of issues, including China's frenzied construction boom, which has paved over ancient traditions block by block, and the sorry state of American politics, gives this cautionary tale *frisson*." —*Booklist*. Walker's shockingly plausible literary debut...[turns] an outrageous tale of embezzlement into a rollicking moral drama." — *PW* Starred Review for our **December Thriller Club Pick**.

BRITISH BOOKS

Adams, Jane A. [Paying the Ferryman](#) (Severn \$28.95). "At the start of Adams's gripping eighth Naomi Blake mystery, set in Ferrymouth, England, 14-year-old Sarah Griffin is awakened in the middle of the night by the sound of her mother and stepfather arguing downstairs with someone who sounds like her natural father. When she hears gunfire, she knows her mother and stepfather are dead, and flees the house with her 15-month-old half-brother in her arms. The police find only one clue at the crime scene: the business card of retired police detective Naomi Blake. The double murder appears to be linked to the last big case Naomi handled before the accident that blinded her. Aided by her retired inspector spouse, Alec Friedman, Naomi sets out to locate a relative to care for Sarah and track down the killer. As the action builds to a satisfying ending, Naomi faces the terrifying prospect of confronting the last man she put in prison." —*PW*. I've always like Adams' work and am surprised she isn't better known. Ordered Upon Request, like all titles from Severn House.

Bannister, Jo. [Perfect Sins](#) (St Martins \$25.99). It was a toss-up between this gem and that of Cleverly, below, for the December British Mystery Club Pick. If you're a member—or not—buy both for excellent holiday escape reading. Four years ago, Gabriel Ash was working with the British government investigating hijackings in Somalia. But when his wife and sons disappeared, presumably taken—and probably killed—by pirates, his life fell apart. A spark of hope ignites when a senior policeman suggests that his sons might still be alive—until that policeman is murdered. Could there be a link to a British shipping firm or agent? Ash, no longer a government agent, is determined to find it. Meanwhile, his friend Hazel Best, police constable whose last case ended with her shooting someone dead, is on leave to regain her balance. They are in her childhood village when a neighboring archaeologist decides to dig up a curious mound of earth near the ice house on the family estate—he's illegitimate but his half-brother the earl encourages him. It might be a burial mound, he thinks. It is, but not the ancient one he expects.... Shocking endings all round to this well-constructed tale, the sequel to [Deadly](#)

[Virtues](#) (\$24.99), which cries out for yet another sequel.

Cleverly, Barbara. [Enter Pale Death](#) (Soho \$26.95). “The tales of pre-World War II Scotland Yard’s Joe Sandilands are becoming addictive. Intrigue, political manipulations, the ever-present undercurrent of class differences, and the rising specter of Nazism run throughout the series. Joe always expected to one day wed Dorcas, a charming girl he watched grow up, and is alarmed to find that she has attached herself to her academic patron, Sir James Truelove. The detective is sent to Truelove’s family estate to investigate the death of Sir James’s wife. Murder investigations, just like true love, never run smoothly. Is Sandilands going to find the way through this snake’s nest?” –The Indie Next Pick for our **December British Crime Club Pick**. I read it in one gulp. Fabulous!

Doyle, Arthur Conan. [The Hound of the Baskervilles. A Study in Scarlet. The Sign of the Four](#) (Knopf \$25.95). In 1887, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s *A Study in Scarlet* introduced the work to Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. Here are three of the four Sherlock novels in a hardcover edition. I’d go for Leslie S. Klinger’s [The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes: The Novels](#) (\$59.95) with all four.

Eccles, Marjorie. [The Firebird’s Feather](#) (Severn \$28.95). Here is just one of the enthusiastic reviews (I don’t get Advance Reading Copies from Severn, hence the quotes). “Like *Downton Abbey*, this fun, well-crafted standalone by British author Eccles sets a wealthy family in a world of social change. In the summer of 1911, London faces a new monarch, suffrage demonstrations, and violent political activism. Eighteen-year-old Kitty Challoner is preparing for her introduction to London society when her Russian-born mother, Lydia, is fatally shot while horseback riding in Hyde Park. As Kitty grieves, she discovers that her father’s gun is missing, a precious icon has vanished, and a sketch of a wolf has mysteriously appeared in the lacquer box, decorated with a firebird, which her mother cherished. Lydia’s conflicts with suffragette leaders, close relationship with a handsome younger man, and possible support for London’s anarchist underground give the police ample leads. As Lydia’s hidden life is revealed, Kitty comes of age in a sobering but satisfying fashion. Well-drawn characters, inventive plotting, and a touch of romance distinguish this lively historical.” Ordered upon request.

Fowler, Christopher. [Bryant and May and the Bleeding Heart](#) (Random \$26). Romain Curtis sneaks into St. George’s Gardens one evening with his date, planning to show her the stars. A centuries-old burial ground, the small, quiet park is the perfect place to be alone. Yet the night takes a chilling turn when the two teenagers spy a strange figure rising from among the tombstones: a corpse emerging from the grave. Wherever there’s a dead man walking, Bryant and May and the Peculiar Crimes Unit are never far behind. As the PCU investigates the sighting, a second urgent matter requires their unusual brand of problem-solving. Seven ravens have gone missing from their historic home in the Tower of London, and legend has it that when the ravens disappear, England will fall. Bryant has been tasked with recovering the lost birds, but when Romain is suddenly found dead, the two seemingly separate mysteries start to intertwine and point to a sinister plot. Soon Bryant and May find themselves immersed in London’s darkest lore, from Victorian-era body snatchers, to arcane black magic, to the grisly myth behind Bleeding Heart

Yard, a courtyard long associated with murder. And as the body count spikes and more coffins are unearthed, they will have to dig deep to catch a killer.... The latest in a truly fabulous series that however zany it appears is solidly grounded in London history and landscape.

Hill, Susan. [Soul of Discretion](#) (Overlook \$25.95). Postponed to January, a new case for Chief Superintendent Simon Serrailer. Order now as it may ship in early.

Horowitz, Anthony. [Moriarty](#) (Harper \$26.99). “I’ve been reading Sherlock Holmes pastiches for 20 years, but I’ve never read anything as devious as this! After the famous encounter between Holmes and Moriarty at Reichenbach Falls, Inspector Athelney Jones and Pinkerton Agent Frederick Chase are thrown together to combat the rising shadow of an American crime boss looking to take over Moriarty’s empire. Horowitz wisely does not try to imitate Doyle’s style, but instead comes up with a unique voice with several parallels to the Holmes and Watson dynamic. As soon as you finish, you’ll want to read it again with a new appreciation for Horowitz’s masterful plotting. Exquisitely done!”—the December Indie Next Pick. Our Signed UK edition sold out.

James, Peter. [Want You Dead](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Bryce Laurent, a violent narcissist who can’t bear to see ex-girlfriend Red Westwood dating someone else, rents an apartment nearby, and spies on her using the night-sights of his crossbow and several bugging devices. Shortly after Red’s new boyfriend, Dr. Karl Murphy, fails to show up for a date, the police question her about his disappearance, while also enquiring after Laurent, against whom Red has a restraining order. When a group of golfers discover a badly burned corpse, Grace gets on the case. The author is unflinching in his descriptions of domestic abuse, and paints a vivid picture of Brighton with daily life punctuated by cigarettes, booze, and greasy food. A subplot involving Grace’s vanished wife, Sandy, keeps that storyline in the series going.

Kernick, Simon. [Last 10 Seconds](#) (Atria \$15). 36 hours ago: A vicious serial killer is arrested on the streets of north London after a two-year reign of terror. Known only as the Night Creeper, he’s earned his reputation by torturing five young women to death. 24 hours ago: Undercover cop Sean Egan has infiltrated one of the country’s most notorious criminal gangs. Now he’s about to risk his life in a desperate bid to bring its members to justice. 12 hours ago: DI Tina Boyd has discovered that the Night Creeper’s murders are part of a much larger criminal conspiracy. But her quest for the truth has brought her into contact with some very dangerous people who want to silence her—permanently. The last 10 seconds: A man, a woman, a sadistic killer race towards a confrontation... US edition.

King, Laurie R. [Mary Russell’s Christmas Signed](#) (\$10). The story begins one winter’s evening in late 1921 or 1922, when the two are seated by their fire, sharing stories about the unexplored portions of their past. Naturally, we expect the older Holmes to have a large collection of these—but tonight it is Russell who astonishes her husband with news of a previously unknown, even unsuspected, relation: Uncle Jake, scoundrel, charmer, and eternal youth, the black sheep of the Russell family.... Chicanery, hot air balloons, Evil Publicans, and knife-throwing ensue!

McDermid, Val. [The Skeleton Road](#) (Atlantic \$25). When a skeleton with a bullet hole in its skull is found in a parapet of

an abandoned building in Edinburgh, the case is clearly in DC Karen Pirie's Historic Case Unit's jurisdiction. The body turns out to belong to a Croatian general who worked with the UN War Crimes Tribunal following the Balkan Wars in the 1990s. As a result, Pirie's investigation ranges from Edinburgh and Oxford to Dubrovnik and Scheviningen, and, as it turns out, she is not the only one following the trail or seeking justice for the dead. "The backdrop of the Balkan Wars results in some unexpected plot twists but also leads to a loftier examination of the morality of vengeance. However, Pirie's humor and tenacity balance the larger issues, introducing a crime novel that is both enjoyable and irresistible."—*LJ*. Our signed UK editions sold out.

Pitts, Mike. [Digging for Richard III](#) (Thames & Hudson \$29.95). In August 2012 a search began and on February 4, 2013 a team from Leicester University delivered its verdict to a mesmerized press room, watched by media studios around the world: they had found the remains of Richard III, whose history is perhaps the most contested of all British monarchs. History offers a narrow range of information about Richard III which mostly has already been worked to destruction. Archaeology creates new data, new stories, with a different kind of material: physical remains from which modern science can wrest a surprising amount, and which provide a direct, tangible connection with the past. Unlike history, archaeological research demands that teams of people with varied backgrounds work together. Archaeology is a communal activity, in which the interaction of personalities as well as professional skills can change the course of research. Photographs from the author's own archives, alongside additional material from Leicester University, offer a compelling detective story as the evidence is uncovered.

Purser, Ann. [Suspicion at Seven](#) (Berkley \$25.95). After a woman is discovered in the Mill House Hotel, strangled with a silver necklace beside a bag filled with faux silver, gold and pearls, costume jewelry dealer Donald Black seems like the obvious suspect. But Lois Meade, proprietress of New Brooms and enthusiastic sleuth, knows Donald's wife, who runs a baker's shop near the hotel, and can't believe her husband could be a killer. Plus, Donald has an airtight alibi. Nevertheless, Donald is no angel. It appears he's running a pyramid scheme, and Lois's mother is getting sucked in. Could the murder have anything to do with his unscrupulous business practices? As Inspector Cowgill and Lois hope the bling may shine a light on the killer, they discover of a second body on the old waterwheel in the hotel.....

Rayner, Sarah. [Getting Even](#) (\$15.99). How would you feel if your best friend at work betrayed you? Was secretly having an affair with an influential colleague? Won a coveted promotion, then teamed you up with a mere junior, leaving you feeling completely demoted? What would you do? For Ivy there's no choice. The only person she has ever trusted, Orianna, has blown it big time. So there's only one way forward: revenge. Ivy's campaign is brilliant, if horribly destructive, and she's determined to get even with the woman who has dared to cross her. But is Ivy really the innocent party? Or is she hiding secrets of her own? "Betrayal and revenge fuel this smart, sexy tale of intrigue at a London ad agency. With Rayner's brisk, snappy prose, spot-on characterizations...and deft plot twists, this is chick lit with an edge. Pure entertainment." —*Booklist*

Rickman, Phil. [Night After Night Signed](#) (Corvus \$44). Leo Defford doesn't believe in ghosts. But, as the head of an independent production company, he does believe in high-impact reality TV. Defford hires journalist Grayle Underhill to research the history of Knap Hall, a one-time Tudor farmhouse in the Cotswolds near Sudeley Castle. A famous model and her rich magazine-mogul husband had turned the desolate place into the ultimate luxury guest house. The glitterati flocked. Then tragedy put it back on the market. Its recent history isn't conducive to a quick sale, but Defford isn't interested in keeping Knap Hall for longer than it takes to make a reality TV show that will run night after night: think a house isolated by its rural situation and its dark reputation. Seven people, nationally known, but strangers to one another, locked inside. Who is control, the producer or...? Atmospheric, spooky, lots of history in a standalone from elegant stylist Rickman.

Sayers, Dorothy L. [Five Red Herrings](#); [Murder Must Advertise](#) (\$14.99 each). *Murder Must Advertise* is one of my favorite Sayers, drawing upon her own experience in the ad industry. These are Lord Peter before Harriet Vane.

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Forever Girl](#) (\$15.95). A novel about love and following one's heart. Amanda and her husband, David, feel fortunate to be raising their son and daughter in the close-knit community of ex-pats on Grand Cayman Island, an idyllic place for children to grow up. Their firstborn, Sally, has always listened to her heart, deciding at age four that she would rather be called Clover and then, a few years later, falling in love with her best friend, James. But the comforting embrace of island life can become claustrophobic for adults, especially when they are faced with difficult situations. I have never been able to read Smith's work other than the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency mysteries—but that's me.

Tallis, FR. [The Voices](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). "Tallis sets his standalone psychological thriller during a time when traditional gender roles were being challenged and cleverly uses the supernatural to underscore the claustrophobia of an increasingly fractious marriage. The eerie voices, the heat, and the oppression that Laura feels, as well as Chris's frustration with his career and a wife who is no longer his ideal, all come together to create an insidious, creeping dread in this subtle yet ultimately terrifying yarn. Recommended for fans of thrillers in the gothic tradition, such as Ira Levin's *Rosemary's Baby* and Shirley Jackson's work. Readers who enjoyed Sophie Hannah's *The Orphan Choir* might also want to consider this title." —*Library Journal* Starred Review

Todd, Charles. [A Fine Summer's Day Signed](#) (Morrow \$26.99 Jan. 8). On a fine summer's day in June, 1914, Ian Rutledge pays little notice to the assassination of an archduke in Sarajevo... So starts a prequel to this award-winning series. Signed here January 8.

AROUND THE WORLD

Bates, Quentin. [Chilled to the Bone](#) (\$15.95). Iceland is a hot spot for crime. I find the plots move faster, the stories less bleak. See December Trade Paperback Picks.

Bishop, Patrick. [The Reckoning: Death and Intrigue in the Promised Land](#) (Harper \$26.99). A true story. The charismatic mastermind of a series of high-profile terrorist attacks with the

goal of attaining Jewish independence and statehood, Avraham Stern was driven by his belief that he was the Jewish liberator of British Palestine. By early 1942 he was the most wanted man in Palestine, forced to take refuge in an attic in Tel Aviv to evade Assistant Superintendent Geoffrey Morton, who was assigned to track him down. Stern's capture and death have been debated and endlessly contested over the years. The official British report stated that Stern was attempting to escape, and Morton had reason to believe that he had explosives. However, witnesses claimed that it was a cold-blooded murder that precipitated a cult of martyrdom, precluding any possibility of a *détente* among the British, the Arabs, and the Jews, and inspiring his followers for many years. Historian Bishop had access to Morton's papers in his quest to uncover the truth about Stern's death.

Fitzgerald, Conor. [The Memory Key](#) (\$16). On a freezing November night Commissario Alec Blume is called to the scene of a shooting. The victim is Sofia Fontana, the sole witness to a previous killing. Blume's inquiries lead from a professor with a passion for the art of memory to a hospitalized ex-terrorist whose injuries have left her mind innocently blank; from present day Rome's criminal underclass, to a murderous train station bombing in central Italy several decades ago. Against the advice of his bosses and his own better judgment, Blume is drawn ever deeper into the case, which looks set to derail his troubled relationship with Caterina.... Dark intrigue, stylishly crafted.

Hayes, Terry. [I Am Pilgrim](#) (\$16). Debut thriller, ranging over many landscapes. See Our December Trade Paperback Picks.

Janes, J Robert. [Betrayal](#) (Mysterious \$14.99). After a gap of many years, Canadian Janes presents another in his dense, deeply complex, thoroughly researched novels—but not featuring his intriguing pairing of St. Cyr and Kohler, Frenchman and German on opposite sides in WWII but reluctantly teaming to solve crimes. Here we move to Northern Ireland, also in WWII, where in a POW camp a doctor's wife has found a lover in a handsome German officer. He begs her to smuggle a letter to a cousin—a lie, for the cousin is really an encoded message for the high commander of the Nazi fleet. So Mary has betrayed both her husband and Britain. When she discovers her unwitting espionage, she sets out to try to make things right...which also means dodging the IRA.

Krajewski, Marek. [Phantoms of Breslau: An Eberhard Mystery](#) (\$15.95). Breslau, 1919: The hideously battered, naked bodies of four sailors are discovered on an island in the River Oder. When Criminal Assistant Eberhard Mock, back from the war, arrives at the scene to investigate, he finds an enigmatic note addressed to him insisting that he admit to past mistakes and become a believer. As he endeavors to piece together the elements of the brutal crime, Mock combs the brothels and drinking dens of the then still-German city of Breslau and is drawn into an insidious game: it seems that anyone he questions during the course of the investigation is destined to become the next victim. Meanwhile, Mock uncovers a secret society that has the Criminal Assistant himself clearly in its sights. Dark, sophisticated, and uncompromising, the distinctive Breslau series has already received broad critical acclaim. *Phantoms of Breslau* confirms Eberhard Mock as one of the most outrageous and original detectives in crime fiction. Start with [Death in Breslau](#) (\$15.95). The covers for both books are really fun!

Lemaitre, Pierre. [Irene](#) (Quercus US \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick: "This extremely suspenseful, fast-paced crime novel is not for the fainthearted. Its graphic violence may turn some readers away, but those who stick through the opening scenes will be richly rewarded by following Commander Verhoeven's pursuit of a monstrous serial killer who models his gruesome crimes on scenes from classic crime novels. The intense action is enriched by scenes from Verhoeven's domestic life, as well as the interactions among the distinct personalities of his Paris detective squad."

Michener, James. [Caribbean](#) (\$17); [Caravans: A Novel of Afghanistan](#) (\$14.95). Reprints of more Michener blend of history and fiction.

Modiano, Patrick. [Suspended Sentences](#) (Yale University \$16). "This set of three newly translated novellas from 2014 Nobel winner Modiano is propitious in timing and format: the collection's variety gives curious readers a broad introduction to a writer of purposefully narrow scope. Modiano has facetiously admitted to repeatedly writing the same book, usually a meditative investigation winding its ways through the City of Lights to illuminate, though never fully reveal, some lingering mystery from the period of Nazi Occupation. These three atmospheric novellas demonstrate the range of reading pleasure afforded by Modiano's approach and the dark romance of his Paris, a city "in which adventure lay right around every street corner." Each first-person novella is also a portrait of the artist: as the protagonists pursue the faint traces of people and places that have disappeared, we witness a doggedly inquiring writer slowly emerging before our eyes."

Olafsdottir, Auour Ava. [Butterflies in November](#) (Grove \$15). After a day of being dumped—twice—and accidentally killing a goose, a young woman yearns for a tropical vacation far from the chaos of her life. Instead, her plans are wrecked by her best friend's four-year-old deaf-mute son, thrust into her reluctant care. But when the boy chooses the winning numbers for a lottery ticket, the two of them set off on a road trip across Iceland with a glove compartment stuffed full of their jackpot earnings. Along the way, they encounter black sand beaches, cucumber farms, lava fields, flocks of sheep, an Estonian choir, a falconer, a hitchhiker, and both of her exes desperate for another chance. What begins as a spontaneous adventure will unexpectedly and profoundly change the way she views her past and charts her future. A blackly comic novel. Long-listed for the *Independent Foreign Fiction Prize* 2014

Pattison, Eliot. [Soul of the Fire Signed](#) (St Martins \$28). Shan Tao Yun #8. The magic of his Edgar winner STY #1 *Skull Mantra* never fades despite the horrors confronting Tibetans and those (Chinese, America, whatever) in sympathy with them. Plus Pattison has worked in some Native American elements from time to time.

Selby, Scott A. [A Serial Killer in Nazi Berlin](#) (\$16). In Berlin during World War II, nightly blackouts were necessary owing to Allied bombing raids. However, this total darkness protected criminals as well as citizens. One of the most horrifying—and most successful—of these was Paul Ogorzow, a mild-mannered railroad employee who at night became a sexual predator, raping and often murdering female factory workers who were coming home in the dark. Though he initially attacked them close to their

homes, a near capture caused him to rethink his strategy, and he started to terrorize women in the cars of the S-Bahn commuter trains, taking sexual satisfaction in brutalizing them and then throwing them off the train. Selby follows the police investigation, noting that the police overlooked the Aryan and Nazi Party man Ogorzow, expecting a Jew or other undesirable to be the culprit. Nonetheless, the notorious case inspired Joseph Goebbels to commission a series of crime novels to inspire faith in the German police. History, not a thriller, so don't read it as a page turner.

Shoham, Liad. [Asylum City](#) (Harper \$25.99). Shoham, a bestseller in Israel, is a practicing attorney in Tel Aviv. So he can write about the city's underworld with authority which is where officer Anat Nachmias is plunged while leading her first murder investigation. A young social worker active with those seeking asylum is found murdered in her apartment. A young African refugee confesses to Michal's murder but Anat doesn't buy it even as her commanders close the case. She believes that Anat, irritating as a gnat, become involved in something deeply dangerous. And so she goes where war victims and criminals, idealists and cynics, aid organizations and criminal syndicates intersect, at considerable risk, to learn what happened to Michal.

Simenon, Georges. [Saint-Fiacre Affair](#); [Shadow in the Courtyard](#) (Penguin \$10 each). Reprints from the prolific French crime-writer.

Simmons, Dan. [The Abominable](#) (\$18). If you fancy a climb on Mt. Everest, read this instead. See December Trade Paperback Picks.

Truc, Olivier. [Forty Days Without Shadow](#) (Grand Central \$18). An Arctic thriller shortlisted for the CWA International Dagger and many other awards takes its title from to end of the annual polar night in northern Norway. The sun rises for the first time in forty days, and sets in nineteen minutes. As the span lengthens so does an investigation into sinister events in Kautokeino, a small Sami village. An ancient Sami drum is stolen (only 71 are known to exist, many having been destroyed by stern Lutheran pastors seeking to quash the aboriginal religion). And Mattis, a reindeer herder, is found dead in his hut, his ears cut off. The Reindeer Police investigate, headed by experienced officer Kelemet Nango and his younger partner, a blonde from the south, in 463 pages you tour an endangered culture, follow twisted plot lines, experience bone-numbing cold as well as fear, greed, long-held secrets, and people in various ways trying to do the right thing as each defines it. This is a rare reading experience and our **December Fresh Fiction Pick**.

Tursten, Helene. [The Fire Dance](#) (\$15.95). A strong entry in this dark Swedish series which you can watch on MHZ-TV. Detective Inspector Irene Huss hasn't seen Sophie Malmborg for over fifteen years, but she's still haunted by the strange young ballerina's role in the fire that killed her stepfather. Why had she refused to speak to Irene and the other case workers? Could an eleven-year-old—even one as disturbed and aloof as Sophie—truly be capable of setting her own house on fire? Irene's questions resurface when Sophie, now a young adult, disappears.... Göteborg is Huss' beat, a city often overshadowed by Stockholm.

Walker, Casey. [Last Days in Shanghai Signed](#) (Consortium \$26). See First Novels.

Williams, Timothy. [Persona Non Grata](#) (Soho \$14.95). Northern Italy, 1985: Commissario Piero Trotti is on the verge of retirement from the police force. He is 56 years old, and though he is widely respected for his integrity and work ethic, he is not widely liked. The junior detectives he works with transfer because he's too hard on them; his fellow commissioner is trying to force him out. Even his family has walked out of his life: his adult daughter has moved to Bologna, and his wife has left him for New York. All signs are telling Trotti that he needs to make a change. Instead, he digs in his heels. The city is in an uproar after a young girl is attacked in her bed by an intruder. Aided by the one junior officer who still listens to him—a dogged, unflinching female brigadier named Ciuffi—Trotti sets to work, trying to figure out the truth. Williams is visiting us in January with his new mystery set in Guadeloupe as well as the reprints of his wonderful Italian ones. Yay!

OUR DECEMBER TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Aspe, Pieter. [The Midas Murders](#) (\$15.95). One quiet snow-covered Sunday morning in Bruges, a prominent business executive is found dead in the streets, apparently due to an alcoholic hemorrhage, but for Inspector Van In, there is something about the autopsy that does not add up. When he questions the businessman's friend, a Dutchman, he too is found dead the next morning, burned to death in a house fire. When there is an explosion in the middle of a popular tourist area in downtown Bruges, Van In strives to find the connection between the three incidents, but no one is coming forward. Aided by the beautiful assistant DA, Hannelore Martens, Inspector Van In finds himself enmeshed in the case that threatens not just the lives of countless innocent people, but the heart of the city he loves.

Bates, Quentin. [Chilled to the Bone](#) (\$15.95). *Booklist* reviews: "In her third outing, Iceland police sergeant Gunnhildur (Gunn) Gísladóttir investigates the murder of a businessman found tied to a bed in an upscale Reykjavik hotel. He's not the first man to be similarly abandoned midway through a paid-for tryst. To make matters worse, a laptop containing sensitive government data was stolen from one of the rooms. All this would be pressure enough for Gunn, but there's someone else looking for the disappearing dominatrix—Baddo, a thug just returned to Iceland after an eight-year prison stint in Lithuania. Gunn is a straight-talking single mom (about to become a grandmother, thanks to an impulsive son) who has no patience for the bureaucracy that plagues the case once some escort-hiring government employees are discovered. A solid police procedural with some genuinely rewarding surprises at the end. When it comes to frosty crime novels, Iceland may just be the new Sweden. Fans of Bates' books may enjoy other Icelandic mysteries by Arnaldur Indridason and Yrsa Sigurdardóttir."

Hayes, Terry. [I Am Pilgrim](#) (\$16). One of the year's major debuts (and yes, a First Mystery Club Pick), is global in scope. Janet Maslin reviews for the *NY Times*: "...the most exciting desert island read of the season...[with] more than enough subplots and flashbacks to keep readers riveted...Despite Mr. Hayes's long history as a movie guy...*I Am Pilgrim* is not a film treatment bloated into book form. It's a big, breathless tale of nonstop suspense, and it has something rarely found in big-budget movies of the same genre: the voice of a single writer instead of the patchwork nonsense created by endless collaborators and fixers. Mr. Hayes delivers his share of far-fetched moments, and no doubt he'd like to see *I Am Pilgrim* filmed some day. But he's his own worst enemy in that regard. His novel will be hard for any movie version to beat."

Matthews, Jason. [Red Sparrow](#) (\$17). Taking place in today's Russia, still ruled with an iron fist by Vladimir Putin. State intelligence officer Dominika Egorova struggles to survive in the cast-iron bureaucracy of post-Soviet intelligence. Drafted against her will to become a "Sparrow," a trained seductress in the service, Dominika is assigned to operate against Nathaniel Nash, a first-tour CIA officer who handles the CIA's most sensitive penetration of Russian intelligence. The two young intelligence officers, trained in their respective spy schools, collide in a charged atmosphere of tradecraft, deception, and, inevitably, a forbidden spiral of carnal attraction that threatens their careers and the security of America's most valuable mole in Moscow. Seeking revenge against her soulless masters, Dominika begins a fateful double life, recruited by the CIA to ferret out a high-level traitor in Washington; hunt down a Russian illegal buried deep in the US military and, against all odds, to return to Moscow as the new-generation penetration of Putin's intelligence service. Dominika and Nathaniel's impossible love affair and twisted spy game come to a deadly conclusion in the shocking climax. A First Mystery Club Pick in hardcover.

Nunn, Kem. [Chance](#) (\$16). From *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize winner Kem Nunn and "principal heir to the tradition of Raymond Chandler and Nathanael West" (*The Washington Post*)—an intense psychological suspense novel about a San Francisco neuropsychiatrist. It begins when into Dr. Chance's blighted life walks Jaelyn Blackstone, the abused, attractive wife of an Oakland homicide detective, a violent and jealous man. Jaelyn appears to be suffering from a dissociative identity disorder. In time, Chance will fall into bed with her—or is it with her alter ego, the voracious and volatile Jackie Black?

Ramsay, Frederick. [The Wolf and the Lamb](#) (\$14.95). How would Sherlock Holmes solve a puzzling case as events in Jesus' Jerusalem move towards his crucifixion? Why did Pilate hear the case against Jesus? Why invent a tradition that required one prisoner be released at Passover? Having done so, why offer the most terrifying criminal in the country, Barabbas, as the substitute for Jesus when two better, less dangerous prisoners were at hand? And why could the High Priest Caiaphas not heed Gamaliel's warnings not to martyr Yeshua? However, the story of the crucifixion and its aftermath flows along as background to the mystery author Ramsay cleverly constructs, one shrewdly based on imperial politics and the celebration of Passover. Holmes, is the Rabbi of the Sanhedrin, Gamaliel, a reluctant sleuth pressed into service by Pontius Pilate who's been accused of murder. His Watson is the Greek physician, Loukas. See Event Books for more.

✦ Sansom, CJ. [Dominion](#) (\$17). Imagine Britain ruled by the Nazis. 1952. Twelve years have passed since Churchill lost to the appeasers and Britain surrendered to Nazi Germany. The global economy strains against the weight of the long German war against Russia still raging in the east. The British people find themselves under increasingly authoritarian rule—the press, radio, and television tightly controlled, the British Jews facing ever greater constraints. But Churchill's Resistance soldiers on. As defiance grows, whispers circulate of a secret that could forever alter the balance of the global struggle. The keeper of that secret? Scientist Frank Muncaster, who languishes in a Birmingham mental hospital. Civil Servant David Fitzgerald, a spy for the Resistance and University friend of Frank's, is given the mission to rescue Frank...and... A literary thriller emphasizing how events can turn on the resolution of a few stalwart men (and women).

Simmons, Dan. [The Abominable](#) (\$18). "Simmons, in this thematic cousin to *The Terror* (2007), once more plunges into a storm of snow and ice, this time tackling no less than Everest. It's 1924, and a trio of rogue climbers—mysterious WWI vet Deacon; emotional Frenchman Jean-Claude; and our narrator, brash young American Jacob—are hired to find the corpse of a dignitary lost on Everest. While they're there, they go for the legendary summit. Right away, there's a complication: a fourth team member, the dead man's cousin—and a woman, no less! But it's the subsequent complications that make this required reading for anyone inspired or terrified by high-altitude acrobatics: sudden avalanches, hidden crevasses, murderous temperatures, mountainside betrayals, and maybe—just maybe—a pack of blood-thirsty yeti."—*Booklist*

✦ Todd, Charles. [Hunting Shadows](#) (\$14.99). A gunshot from one of the towers at Ely Cathedral during a wedding becomes a crime scene. The murdered man was a guest—was he the target, or the groom? Then another person dies. The Cambridgeshire constabulary calls in the Yard which sends Inspector Ian Rutledge. There is a witness to the second murder who glimpsed the shooter—but her story is too weird for belief. This is one of the best Rutledge cases, loaded with the landscape and atmosphere of the special world of the fens, puzzling, ethically challenging, and probing his own experience. Todd signs a Rutledge prequel, *A Fine Summer's Day*, on January 8. See Event Books to order.

Zevin, Gabrielle. [The Storied Life of A J Fikry](#) (\$14.95). "Readers who delighted in Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows's *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, Rachel Joyce's *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, and Jessica Brockmole's *Letters from Skye* will be equally captivated by this adult novel by a popular YA author about a life of books, redemption, and second chances. Funny, tender, and moving, it reminds us all exactly why we read and why we love."—*Library Journal* Starred Review. For more, see Gifts.

NEW BOOKS

Baldacci, David. [The Escape Signed](#) (Grand Central \$29). "In bestseller Baldacci's clever third John Puller thriller, the chief warrant officer faces his most difficult and most personal assignment yet. Puller's older brother, Robert, a former major in the USAF, is a convicted traitor serving a life sentence in Leavenworth. A seemingly impossible chain of events ends with Robert escaping and a corpse left in his cell. A trio of high-placed officials, Army, Air Force, and National Security, go against normal protocol, and charge Puller with finding and arresting Robert. Puller has to figure out the identity of the dead man found in his brother's cell, as well as who enabled Robert to escape. To add to his problems, he's not sure he can trust the Army Intelligence agent assigned to work with him, Veronica Knox. The Puller brothers are in deep trouble, and it will take all their ingenuity and skills just to survive. Baldacci handles the complex plot with consummate ease as the Pullers navigate nearly endless surprises."—*PW*

Bate, Dana. [A Second Bite at the Apple](#) (Kensington \$15). T'is the season for a feel-good book, especially one with a story wrapped around food. Specifically, the goods purveyed by Wild Yeast Bakery at DC's West End farmer's market where Sydney, unexpectedly laid off her new journalism job, ends up in part time sales under misanthrope Rick. A graduate of Northwestern's

Medill School of Journalism, Sydney hasn't recovered from being dumped by her long-time, only boyfriend, Zach. She's let her food blog go. She's broke, cranky, feels like her lucky younger sister Libby got all of Mom and Dad. Boo hoo. And then as the story rolls on in Syd's cheeky voice, she learns a lot and gets a shot at a story that could make her career, or burn her. Not to mention Jeremy, an interesting if disgraced journalist, and her new circle. Not sugary or cozy, but sharply and wryly observant, rather than Jane Austen (as this modern rendition of the title *Pride & Prejudice* clues you in).

Billheimer, John. [The Contrary Blues](#) (\$16). Contrary, West Virginia, a sleepy town with failing coal mines, has an urgent need for revenue. A federal grant for a non-existent bus system meets that need, until a government auditor consumes too much white lightning and dies under mysterious circumstances. When the Department of Transportation sends Owen Allison to sort things out, Owen decides to let the phony bus subsidy continue until another body surfaces—might the body be Owen's? I loved this book and in fact the whole series and am thrilled it's back in print. Continue with Owen's second case: [Highway Robbery](#) (\$16).

Bova, Ben ed. [Carbide Tipped Pens: Seventeen Tales](#) (Forge \$27.99). Choi and Bova successfully recapture the feel of classic hard SF, presenting 17 stories in which science and technology are truly essential to the plot. The most enjoyable is Liu Cixin's nifty "The Circle" (translated from the Chinese by Ken Liu), in which the fundamental concepts of computer science are developed in the court of King Zheng of Qin in the second century B.C.E. Another standout is Leah Petersen and Gabrielle Harbowy's "Skin Deep," featuring a mix of biology, personalized medicine, and some nasty twists. Daniel H. Wilson's "The Blue Afternoon That Lasted Forever" is a touching and short tale of a father who learns about Earth's doom minutes before everyone else.

Boyd, Daniel. [Easy Death](#) (Hard Case Crime \$9.95). The *PW* Starred Review: "Set in December 1951, Boyd's winning first crime novel will appeal to classic noir aficionados and retro hipsters alike. Bud Sweeney (called "Brother Sweetie" behind his back), local car dealer and Midwestern crime boss, sends several of his henchmen out into a blizzard, one posing as a police officer, to intercept and rob an armored car. WWII vets Eddie and Walter, one white and the other black, make off with the loot, but get into a real mess trying to keep it when they step into an odd subplot involving a formidable female park ranger and her drunken, psychotic boss. The wild narrative jumps back and forth over a 24-hour period before and after the heist."

Brown, Dan. [Inferno: Special Illustrated Edition Signed](#) (Knopf \$40 tip-ins). Designed for holiday gift giving. Harvard professor of symbology Robert Langdon awakens in a hospital in the middle of the night. Disoriented and suffering from a head wound, he recalls nothing of the last thirty-six hours, including how he got there ...or the origin of the macabre object that his doctors discover hidden in his belongings. Langdon's world soon erupts into chaos, and he finds himself on the run in Florence with a stoic young woman, Sienna Brooks, whose clever maneuvering saves his life. Langdon quickly realizes that he is in possession of a series of disturbing codes created by a brilliant scientist—a genius whose obsession with the end of the world is matched only by his passion for one of the most influential masterpieces ever

written—Dante Alighieri's dark epic poem *The Inferno*. Over 200 color illustrations.

Cameron, W. Bruce. [The Midnight Plan of the Repo Man](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Ruddy McCann, former college football star, has experienced a seismic drop in popularity; he is now Kalkaska, Michigan's full-time repo man and part-time bar bouncer. His best friend is his low-energy Basset hound Jake, with whom he shares a simple life of stealing cars. Simple, that is, until Ruddy starts hearing a voice in his head. The voice introduces himself as Alan Lottner, a dead realtor. Ruddy isn't sure if Alan is real, or if he's losing his mind. To complicate matters, it turns out Katie, the girl he's fallen for, is Alan's daughter "This madcap romp through the not-so-scenic parts of northern Michigan — a very beautiful and scenic part of the country for the most part — will keep you laughing until the very last page. Let us hope that there are more Ruddy McCann adventures on the way as Cameron, the bestselling author of *A Dog's Purpose* and *A Dog's Journey*, could well become the Carl Hiaasen of the North.

Christie, Alix. [Gutenberg's Apprentice Signed](#) (Harper \$30). We were able to restock this gorgeous book. Topping *Publishers Weekly's* list of Ten Best Historical Novels is Christie's stand-out debut that takes readers into Gutenberg's 15th-century Mainz workshop to experience the frustration and exhilaration of designing, typesetting, and rolling the first printed Bible off the press. Johann Gutenberg, a driven and caustic inventor, has devised a revolutionary—and, to some, blasphemous—method of bookmaking: a machine he calls a printing press. Fust is financing Gutenberg's workshop, and he orders Peter to become Gutenberg's apprentice. Resentful at having to abandon a prestigious career as a scribe, Peter begins his education in the "darkest art."

Chandler, Raymond. [The World of Raymond Chandler: In His Own Words](#) (Knopf \$30). Raymond Chandler never wrote a memoir or autobiography. The closest he came to writing either was in—and around—his novels, shorts stories, and letters. There have been books that describe and evaluate Chandler's life, but to find out what he himself felt about his life and work, Barry Day, as he did previously with the work of Noel Coward, P.G. Wodehouse, and Dorothy Parker, has assembled the letters and published writings of Raymond Chandler to create not a biography, but a portrait of the writer "in his own words."

Chazin, Suzanne. [Land of Careful Shadows](#) (Kensington \$24). Introducing Jimmy Vega, a Latino homicide detective who was raised by a single mother in Lake Holly, N.Y. The body of an unidentified Hispanic woman, her limbs bound with rope, has washed up on a local lake shore. Nearby the police find a handbag containing a photo of the victim with a baby girl, as well as a handwritten note that reads: "Go back to your country. You don't belong here." Lake Holly has always prided itself on its peaceful race relations, but has suffered a plague of hate crimes following the murder of a mother and her four-year-old daughter by an undocumented worker. Is the Hispanic woman simply another hate-crime victim? And what happened to the baby girl in the photograph? "The engaging, psychologically complex Vega must confront unwelcome aspects of his past as his investigation builds to a shocking conclusion."

Childs, Laura. [Scorched Eggs](#) (Berkley \$25.95). As Suzanne is getting her hair colored at Root 66, she's stunned to witness the County Services office next door suddenly go up in flames. Con-

cerned neighbors throng the streets, and the fire department does their best. Unfortunately, their best isn't enough to save longtime civil service worker—and friend to the Cackleberry Club—Hannah Venable. Soon enough, it's discovered that an accelerant was used to fan the flames. Someone set the fire on purpose—was Hannah the intended victim? Suzanne, Petra, and Toni vow to smoke out the culprit. Unfortunately, the list of suspects is as varied as the Cackleberry Club's menu....

Copperman, EJ. [The Question of the Missing Head Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$14.99). Our author signing Dec. 10 is also known as Jeff Cohen. This is different from his Haunted Guesthouse Series. Samuel Hoenig answers questions for a living. And his Asperger's Syndrome makes him uniquely qualified to ferret out almost any answer there is. But his latest question is a rather odd one: who stole a preserved head from the Garden State Cryonics Institute? As in any great mystery, each answer leads to more questions. And in this case, the next question is who killed the woman Samuel finds in the freezer room? When tragedy strikes Samuel's most trusted associate, still more questions emerge. Will Samuel be derailed by an incompetent police detective? Will the head of security let the chip on his shoulder get in the way of the truth? Just what information is the director of the institute hiding? With lives on the line, it is up to Samuel to answer each and every question, and he's just the man to do it.

Coyle, Cleo. [Once Upon a Grind](#) (Berkley \$26.95). Fairy tale fever has descended on New York City. Broadway fans are flocking to Red Riding Hood: The Musical; museums are exhibiting art inspired by the Brothers Grimm; and Clare Cosi gives her coffee truck a "Jack and the Beanstalk" makeover for a Central Park festival. Clare's coffee hunter ex-husband contributes a bag of African beans with alleged magical properties. His octogenarian mother entertains customers with readings of the grinds, but Clare remains skeptical—until she receives a vision that helps her find a young model's body in the park's woods. The police dismiss "sleeping beauty" as the victim of a drug overdose. Then Clare uncovers evidence that points to a roster of suspects, from a wolf of Wall Street to a New York Giant and a wicked witch of the West Side. Now Clare is really in the woods—with a dangerous predator.... Good writing, brisk plotting, but all the relationship stuff is over the top (of the cup).... The conclusion forecasts a change.

Crais, Robert. [The Promise](#) (Putnam \$27.95). Sorry, he didn't turn the book in in time for publication in November. Watch for an update.

Deaver, Jeffery. [Trouble in Mind: The Collected Stories](#) (\$15). A new collection of stories by the inventive, clever Deaver, always with a twist (the earlier volumes used the word "Twisted" in the titles). Highly recommended.

Diamant, Anita. [Boston Girl](#) (Scribner \$26). The December Indie Next Pick: "Diamant brings a generation of women to life through the voice of Addie Baum. Born in 1900, Addie tells of her early childhood in Boston as the child of immigrant parents; her formative years as a Saturday Club girl, where she found her lifelong friends; her career path as a typist and journalist; and meeting her husband and finding meaningful work as a social worker. Her story plays out against a backdrop of some of the most basic issues women had to face as they found their places in 20th century America."

Estleman, Loren D. [You Know Who Killed Me Signed](#) (Forge \$27). "Edgar-finalist Estleman's compelling 24th Amos Walker novel finds the hard-bitten Detroit PI in rehab, after overdosing on alcohol and Vicodin. The doctor treating Walker gives him a break by not reporting his possession of the pain medication without a prescription. Meanwhile, an old friend asks his help with a murder case in nearby Iroquois Heights: Donald Gates, who maintained the computer that operated the city's traffic lights, was gunned down in his basement. Lt. Ray Henty, who's in charge of the corrupt Iroquois Heights PD, has a tough job made harder by the placement of huge billboards featuring Gates' photo and the legend, "You Know Who Killed Me." The responses to the ads flood the sheriff's department tip line with dozens of anonymous calls, which Walker is deputized to look into. The solution is among the author's craftiest and bleakest," says the Starred Review—which is why it's our **Dec. Surprise Me! Pick**, paying homage to veteran Estleman.

Faherty, Terence. [Deadstick](#); [Live to Regret](#); [The Lost Keats](#) (\$16 each). Looking for something different? These three reprints of Owen Keane mysteries by the Edgar-nominated Faherty are terrific and do not date.

Gander, Forrest. [The Trace](#) (New Directions \$22.95). *PW* Stars this: "Poet and translator Gander's second novel begins with a riveting opening scene depicting a gruesome beheading of a faceless character inside a grime-caked bathroom. What follows is seemingly incongruous—tight, eloquently expressed chapters describing a distraught couple's road trip through the barren but seductive desert landscapes of Texas and Mexico, retracing the last steps legendary journalist Ambrose Bierce took before his unsolved death in 1913 while covering the Mexican Revolution. Though Dale and Hoa play at conducting research for Dale's book on Bierce, they mostly spend long hours in the car trying to bridge the crevasse that developed between them following their son's psych ward stint and disappearance. The pair's circumstances go from bad to worse when their rental car breaks down, leaving them panicked and stranded miles from nowhere in the blazing heat without water or cell signal."

Grafton, Sue. [Grafton A-W Set in Hardcover](#) (\$725 free shipping). Note: only some are first printings; those not are reprints of the original with same text and art work, not book club editions or remainders.

Greaney, Mark. [Tom Clancy: Full Force and Effect](#) (Putnam \$29.95). Clancy is no more but Greaney had worked with him before he died and carries on. And he turns his attention from the Middle East to Asia. A North Korean ICBM crashes into the Sea of Japan. A veteran CIA officer is murdered in Ho Chi Minh City, and a package of forged documents goes missing. The pieces are there, but assembling the puzzle will cost Jack Ryan, Jr. and his fellow Campus agents precious time. Time they don't have. The challenge facing President Jack Ryan is an old one with a terrifying new twist. The international stalemate with North Korea continues into its seventh decade. A young, untested dictator is determined to prove his strength by breaking the deadlock. Like his father before him, he hangs his plans on the country's nuclear ambitions. Until now, that program was impeded by a lack of resources. However, there has been a dramatic change in the nation's economic fortune. A rich deposit of valuable minerals has been found in the Hermit Kingdom. Coupled with their nuclear

capabilities, the money from this find will make North Korea a dangerous force.

Greenwood, Kerry. [A Question of Death: An Illustrated Phryne Fisher Treasury](#) (Poisoned Pen \$). “Fans of the inimitable Phryne Fisher will rejoice in this cornucopia of short stories, recipes, lists of Phryne’s favorite things, and other tidbits about the life of this female James Bond. For those readers who have yet to experience Greenwood’s fearless bon vivant detective, this volume is a great introduction to many of the characters who inhabit the Phryne Fisher series. Uppermost in that character list is Melbourne, Australia, in the 1920s: both sophisticated and seedy, it provides the backdrop to Phryne’s adventures. It also reflects the class struggles which are at the heart of many of the stories, from dock workers to the wealthy elite. Greenwood notes that she uses short stories as tryouts for cast members, to decide whether she wants to live with them for a whole novel; included in this volume is “Carnival,” which is the basis for the full-length *Blood and Circuses*. The volume is colorfully illustrated in great style by Beth Norling and is a treat to browse for the drawings in the margins as well as the full-page depictions of the glamorous Phryne.” —*Historical Novels Review*

Griffin, WEB. [Deadly Assets](#) (Putnam \$27.95). A new Badge of Honor thriller once again throws the Philadelphia PD into turmoil when tension rises with its Citizens Oversight Committee. Shortly after the committee begins targeting police shootings—especially those of 27-year-old Homicide Sergeant Matt Payne, the “Wyatt Earp of the Main Line”—the committee’s combative leader is found shot dead point-blank on the front porch of his run-down Philly row house. As chanting protesters fill the streets, the city threatens to erupt. Payne suspects there’s something deeper behind it all, but what? Ordered to stay out of the line of fire, he struggles ahead to do what he does best—his job. He’s been investigating the murder of a young reporter, working on an illicit drug series for Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Mickey O’Hara, who has been killed with his wife and child, a note stapled to his chest warning that the drug stories are to stop.

Hall, James W. [The Big Finish Signed](#) (St Martins \$28). Edgar-winner Hall goes deep into eco-terrorism in a dark and violent case where his son Flynn—a young man he’s only recently discovered—is in mortal danger. Hall’s heart-pounding 14th Thorn novel takes the hard-bitten Florida PI to Pine Haven, N.C., where Flynn Moss and his fellow Earth Liberation Front activists target a hog factory farm in an “action” that goes awry. Shortly after, Thorn receives the latest in a series of postcards from Flynn, dropped anonymously at the office of his PI friend, Sugarman, and bearing only two words: “Help Me.” The rescue attempt mounted by the pair soon becomes complicated as Sugar’s girlfriend, Tina Gathercole, and FBI agent Madeline Cruz attach themselves to the effort. Meanwhile, murderous ex-con X-88 and his girlfriend, Pixie, descend on Pine Haven with evil intent. “Hall keeps the tension mounting as motives and alliances shift with the foul-scented wind. Even as violence looms, Hall’s talent for description adds a balancing, poetical note.”

Johnson, Denis. [The Laughing Monsters](#) (Farrar \$25.95). “Since 9/11, chasing fairy tales has turned into a serious business. An industry. A lucrative one.” That comment—addressed to Roland Nair, the half-Danish, half-American NATO operative who’s traveled from Amsterdam to Sierra Leone to reconnect with Mi-

chael Adriko, an African-born, American-trained mercenary and former ally—aptly sums up the flavor of this novel. It’s a story that enmeshes the two men in schemes involving the sale of valuable government secrets and enriched uranium, their attempted execution alternating between the comical and the deadly. As Nair and Adriko traverse the continent, accompanied by the latter’s American fiancée, the alluring (especially to Nair) Davidia St. Claire, their roles shift from pursuers to pursued.

Koontz, Dean. [Saint Odd: An Odd Thomas Novel](#) (Random \$28). Since he left his simple life in the small town of Pico Mundo, California, his journey has taken him to places strange and wonderful, mysterious and terrifying. Across the land, in the company of mortals and spirits alike, he has known kindness and cruelty, felt love and loss, saved lives and taken them—as he’s borne witness to humanity’s greatest good and darkest evil. Again and again, he has gone where he must and done what he had to do—for better or worse—with his courage and devotion sorely tested, and his soul forever changed. Every triumph has been hard won. Each sacrifice has taken its toll. Now, whatever destiny drives him has finally steered his steps home, where those he cares for most surround him, the memory of his tragically lost true love haunts him, and one last challenge—vast and dreadful—awaits him.

Margolin, Phillip. [Woman with a Gun](#) (Harper \$26.99). An unusual plot distinguishes this standalone legal thriller by attorney Margolin. It all begins with an art museum retrospective of Pulitzer-winning photographer Kathy Moran’s work. Stacey Kim, still stuck in writer’s block, is inspired to trace the story of the woman in a wedding dress standing at the edge of an ocean with a six-shooter held behind her back. The black & white image fires Stacey’s imagination. It also fires a lot of questions about the woman, who turns out to be Megan Cahill, suspected of killing her brand-new groom, rich collector Raymond, on their wedding night with same gun. But the crime went unsolved. Stacey persists in uncovering the ten-year-old story and finds her biggest block is the reclusive photographer...who won’t talk. The photograph is the book’s cover art. Recommended.

McEvoy, John. [High Stakes](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). If you miss Dick Francis, meet Jack Doyle. Doyle is the irreverent former boxer, advertising rep, and publicity man, whose mid-life career has been shaped by the world of thoroughbred horse racing and dark deeds therein. So it’s no surprise when two FBI agents he’s sleuthed with before pressure him into a new case, one of four investigations run by Doyle in *High Stakes*. Plus John McEvoy’s mysteries come with a bonus: “McEvoy is a racing expert whose knowledge permeates the pages, and, like any good tout, he’s full of amusing stories about horses, bettors, and trackmen.” —*PW*. Also in trade paperback: [High Stakes](#) (\$14.95).

McHugh, Laura. [Weight of Blood](#) (\$16). A First Mystery Club Pick in hardcover.

Miller, Carol. [A Nip of Murder](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Southwestern Virginia near Danville is the scene of Miller’s second mystery; its geology informs the plot which is clever but it takes too long to reach the unusual conclusion. Or maybe I’m not the reader for the culture of a community giving rise to the series title: *Moonshine Mysteries*. Daisy McGovern has gone from being a waitress at the local diner to operating a mouth-watering bakery (warning, this book will make you seriously hungry).

The story takes off when a weird robbery—90 pounds of cream cheese (amazing as to why)—goes down in the her back room and one of the thieves is killed....

Monday, TT. [Setup Man](#) (\$15). “Johnny Adcock knows he’s fortunate. He’s paid \$1.5 million per year for about 10 minutes’ work, about 70 times a year. He’s the Setup Man, whose job is to pitch the eighth inning, or even to pitch to a single left-handed batter. But he’s also a realist. At 35, he’s a senior citizen, a torn ligament away from retirement. So he moonlights as a PI, solving the myriad problems that can befall suddenly rich, usually headstrong young men. In this debut, Adcock’s client is teammate Frankie Herrera, who is concerned that porn tapes starring his wife may soon surface on the Internet. But before Adcock can even begin to investigate, Frankie is dead in an auto accident. What Adcock finds is a convoluted mix of prostitution, murder, Mexican cartels, and retired ballplayers. And while he’s detecting, he’s traded to another team, then abruptly waived. Monday’s plot is inventive, but it’s the verisimilitude of Adcock’s baseball life that makes this one a delight. Adcock is a solid MLB citizen, but he’s aware of the many quirks endemic in baseball’s manners and mores, and he shares them freely with the reader. Here’s hoping he has many more seasons and many more cases.”—*Booklist* Starred Review

Oust, Gail. [Kill Em with Cayenne: A Spice Shop Mystery](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Rural Georgia, an annual Barbeque Festival, a busy spice shop in the festival boom time. The return of a Brandywine Creek native with a serious chip on her shoulder leads to a clash with a local woman who is then found face down in the azaleas, dead from a blow from a frozen brisket. Plenty of suspects are revealed. I tried to like this but failed. Oust’s first, *Rosemary and Crime*, got good reviews but I reject the comparison of *Kill Em* with, say, Carolyn Hart’s *Death on Demand* series. Maybe this is just the infamous second book jinx.

Pattison, Eliot. [Soul of the Fire Signed](#) (St Martins \$28). “Pattison’s superlative eighth mystery featuring Shan Tao Yun takes the former Beijing government investigator to Zhongjie, a Tibetan community that the Chinese regard as a “showcase for the motherland.” To Shan’s astonishment, he’s been tapped to serve on the People’s International Commission for Peace and Order, “dedicated to eliminating the criminal acts of self-aggression that undermine harmonious coexistence in ethnic geographies.” Shan, who has served time in labor camps, is to fill the designated slot reserved for a reformed criminal, but on his first day on the commission, he witnesses a self-immolation. His police training causes him to doubt that the death was a suicide, and his refusal to ignore the facts puts him at odds with his superiors, who don’t want the truth derailing their political agenda. Pattison impressively combines a thrilling plot with a passionate denunciation of the Chinese oppression of the Tibetan people.”—*PW* Starred Review

Patterson, James/Marshall Kamp. [NYPD Red 2](#) (\$16). Known as the protectors of the rich, famous, and connected, NYPD Red is the elite task force called in only for New York City’s most high-profile crimes. And Detective Zach Jordan is the best of the best. Detective Kylie MacDonald is the woman who broke his heart when they first met in the academy. But even with their top-notch training, Zach and Kylie aren’t prepared for what they see when they’re called to a crime scene in the heart of Central

Park. They arrive to find a carousel spinning round and round, its painted horses grinning eerily in the early morning dark. There is only one rider: a brutally slaughtered woman, her body tied up and dressed in a Hazmat suit, on display for the world to see. The victim, a woman of vast wealth and even greater connections, is the fourth in a string of shocking murders that have hit the city....

Poyer, David. [Cruiser](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Newly-promoted to Captain, Dan Lenson’s first glimpse of his command is of a ship literally high and dry. The *USS Savo Island*, which carries a classified, never-before-deployed missile defense system, has run aground on an exposed sandbar off Naples. Captain Lenson has to relieve the ship’s disgraced skipper and deploy on a secret mission—Operation Stellar Shield—which will take his ship and crew into the dangerous waters bordering the Middle East. As a climate of war builds between Israel and Iraq, with threats of nuclear and chemical weapons, Dan has to rally *Savo Island*’s demoralized crew, confront a mysterious death on board ship, while learning to operate a complex missile system that has not been battle tested. But when the conflict reaches a climax, Dan is forced to make a decision that may cost hundreds of thousands of innocent lives—or may save them, but at the cost of his ship and his career.

Rabe, Peter. [Daniel Port Omnibus 1: Dig My Grave Deep / The Out is Death / It’s My Funeral](#) (Stark House \$21.95). Peter Rabe created the archetypal gangster in Daniel Port and wrote about him in six different thrillers. These first three books introduce us to Port and his criminal world. Here is Port the mastermind, trying to get out of the racket he helped create, and Port the savior, defending an old criminal against a younger, meaner hood. Rick Ollerman provides one of his exceptional introductions.

Reay, Katherine. [Lizzy and Jane](#) (Thomas Nelson \$15.99). At the end of a long night, Elizabeth leans against the industrial oven and takes in her kingdom. Once vibrant and flawless, evenings in the kitchen now feel chaotic and exhausting. She’s lost her culinary magic, and business is slowing down. When worried investors enlist the talents of a tech-savvy celebrity chef to salvage the restaurant, Elizabeth feels the ground shift beneath her feet. Brimming with desperation and dread, Elizabeth finds herself in the unlikeliest of places, by her sister’s side in Seattle as Jane undergoes chemotherapy. As her new life takes the form of care, cookery, and classic literature, Elizabeth is forced to reimagine her future and reevaluate her past. But can a New York City chef with a painful history settle down with the family she once abandoned? Reay, clearly an Austen fan, pens her second novel. Delicious food.

Rotella, Sebastian. [The Convert’s Song Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Patrick was greatly struck with [Triple Crossing](#) (\$14.99). And *PW* gives a Starred Review to this sequel: “Valentine Pescatore, the hero of Rotella’s excellent second thriller, left his job as a U.S. Border Patrol agent to become a PI in Buenos Aires, Argentina. There he runs into Raymond Mercer, his former best friend, whom he hasn’t heard from since they were teenagers in Chicago. A charming, failed singer, Raymond has converted to Islam, but is vague about what he does for a living. When hundreds are killed in a terrorist attack at a shopping mall near the city’s garment district, the authorities suspect that Raymond and Valentine committed the crime. To clear his name, Valentine works with French agent Fatima Belhaj to pursue Raymond across the globe,

from South American jungles to Paris and Baghdad. Valentine realizes how little he knows about his former friend. Is Raymond a terrorist or an informant, a spy or a scam artist? Rotella ratchets up the action with an absorbing look at international politics.” Patrick and I both enjoyed Rotella in conversation with Michael Connelly at the November Bouchercon.

Simsion, Graeme. [The Rosie Effect](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99 Jan.). May ship in early. How I loved Simsion’s [The Rosie Project](#) (\$15.99), a 2013 Modern Firsts Club Pick that went on to become a bestseller and, I believe, a major motion picture is in the works. “Simsion’s attention to detail brings to life Don’s wonderful, weird world. Instead of using Don’s Asperger’s syndrome as a fault, or a lead-in to a tragic turn of events, Simsion creates a heartwarming story of an extraordinary man learning to live in an ordinary world, and to love. As Don would say, this book is ‘great fun.’” —*USA Today*. Sequels are scary, but here’s the write up. Don Tillman and Rosie Jarman are back, the Wife Project complete, happily married and living in New York. But they’re about to face a new challenge because— surprise!—Rosie is pregnant. Don sets about learning the protocols of becoming a father, but his unusual research style gets him into trouble with the law. Fortunately his best friend Gene is on hand to offer advice: he’s left Claudia and moved in with Don and Rosie. As Don tries to schedule time for pregnancy research, getting Gene and Claudia to reconcile, servicing the industrial refrigeration unit that occupies half his apartment, helping Dave the Baseball Fan save his business, and staying on the right side of Lydia the social worker, he almost misses the biggest problem of all: he might lose Rosie when she needs him the most. I can’t wait to read it.

Strayed, Cheryl. [Wild \(Movie Tie-In Edition\)](#) (\$15.95). A best-selling memoir/travelogue/self-help journey by a young woman walking becomes a major motion picture.

Sullivan, Mark. [The Thief Signed](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The 3rd Robin Monarch thriller, out in December, Signed here on 22 January. This one has our thief breaking into the secret vaults of shady investor Beau Arsenault during his legendary Christmas party. And he gets 1. Shot and 2. A Lead to a previously undiscovered South American tribe which may well hold an incredibly valuable secret....

Woods, Stuart. [Insatiable Appetites Signed](#) (Putnam \$28 January). It’s a time of unexpected change for Stone Barrington. A recent venture has achieved a great victory, but is immediately faced with a new challenge: an underhanded foe who’s determined to wreak havoc at any cost. Meanwhile, when Stone finds himself responsible for distributing the estate of a respected friend and mentor, the process unearths secrets that range from merely surprising to outright alarming. And when a lethal beauty from Stone’s past resurfaces, there’s no telling what chaos will follow in her wake. Ever a master of keeping cool under pressure, even Stone might have his work cut out for him this time when grand ambitions collide with criminal inclinations.

OUR DECEMBER MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

Alan, Isabella. [Murder, Served Simply](#) (Signet \$7.99), Amish quilt shop owner Angie Braddock has a lot on her plate this Christmas. Her parents and her ex are visiting. Luckily she’s busy preparing her store, Running Stitch, for the town’s traditional progressive dinner, featuring a sleigh ride stopping at each shop for a different course of the meal. Dinner ends with an Amish-themed Christmas

play at the Swiss Valley Hotel and Barn—where an actress falls from the scaffolding to her death. The sheriff suspects foul play causing tensions between the Amish and Englisch to heat up, as do rivalries among the acting troupe and curiosity in Angie’s quilting group...3rd in the Amish Quilt Shop series.

Becker, James. [Knights of the Lord](#) (Signet \$9.99). I can’t resist this obvious nod to *The DaVinci Code* from a British author—think also Steve Berry and the James Bonds. In 1307, under the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, the Knights Templar made an astonishing discovery. For centuries it has remained a secret. Until now. Antiquarian bookseller Walter Jessop happens upon a sheet of brittle parchment tucked inside a forgotten volume in his London shop. Written in code, it’s a cipher Jessop has never seen before. Only its title is translatable...The Master Has Spoken. It’s then that Jessop enlists the help of encryption expert David Mallory. For Mallory, the text is as tantalizing as it is impenetrable. Until he stumbles upon an invaluable clue. Reviews are great: “This is an utterly spellbinding book...stunning and breathtaking...I was left shattered and stunned.” —*Euro Crime*

Blackwell, Juliet. [Keeper of the Castle](#) (Signet \$7.99). San Francisco contractor—and reluctant ghostbuster—Mel Turner gets hired for a job that’s to die for. Lately, she’s been worried about finding enough historic renovation work to pay the bills. But while Turner Construction is in need of a project, Mel’s boyfriend, Graham, has his hands full managing the reconstruction of an ancient building shipped over from Scotland. With the job plagued by rumors that the stones are cursed, Graham brings in Mel to look for paranormal activity. And while the ghost of a charming Scottish clansman does seem to be hanging around the site, the real shock comes when they stumble upon a body... #5 in the Haunted House Renovation Series.

Burdette, Lucy. [Death with All the Trimmings](#) (Signet \$7.99). In this 5th in series, Hayley Snow, food critic for *Key Zest Magazine*, has been assigned to interview Edel Waugh, chef/owner of Key West’s hottest new restaurant. But off the record, Edel reveals someone’s sabotaging her kitchen and asks Hayley to investigate. Things heat up fast when the restaurant is set on fire—and a body is discovered in the charred wreckage. Is someone out to destroy the chef’s business—or actually kill her? Amid holiday festivities like the lighted boat parade and visiting relatives who stir up mixed emotions, Hayley needs to smoke out an arsonist and a killer who may turn up the heat on her next? “What fun! Lucy Burdette writes evocatively about Key West and food—a winning combination.” —Diane Mott Davidson.

Cook, Robin. [Cell](#) (\$9.99). L.A. radiology resident George Wilson is racked with guilt after his fiancée, Kasey Lynch, dies of hypoglycemia as he was sleeping next to her. As he prepares to begin his final year of residency, a former med school colleague and occasional lover, Paula Stonebrenner, invites George to attend a rollout of iDoc, a smartphone app that functions as an individualized primary-care physician, which uses sensors to continually monitor vital signs and provide instantaneous diagnosis and treatment. The concept seems too good to be true, and that apprehension proves warranted when several test subjects of the app die unexpectedly, leading George to become obsessed with ascertaining the cause. “The truth behind the deaths is both logical and surprising, and enables Cook to engage with serious medical ethics issues.” —*PW*

DeMille, Nelson. [The Quest](#) (\$10). While the Ethiopian Civil War rages, a Catholic priest languishes in prison. Forty years have passed since he last saw daylight. His crime? Claiming to know the true location of Christ's cup from the Last Supper. Then the miraculous happens—a mortar strikes the prison and he is free! Old, frail, and injured, he escapes to the jungle, where he encounters two Western journalists and a beautiful freelance photographer taking refuge from the carnage. As they tend to his wounds, he relates his incredible story. Motivated by the sensational tale and their desire to find the location of the holiest of relics, the trio agrees to search for the Grail. Thus begins an impossible quest that will pit them against murderous tribes, deadly assassins, fanatical monks, and the passions of their own hearts. A note from DeMille: "In 2013, I rewrote *The Quest* [from a 1975 paperback original] and doubled its length, making it, I hope, a far better story than the original, without deviating from the elements that made the story so powerful and compelling when I first wrote it. In other words, what made *The Quest* worth rewriting remains, and whatever is changed is for the better. I was happy and excited to have this opportunity to rewrite and republish what I consider my first 'big' novel."

Laukkanen, Owen. [Kill Fee](#) (\$9.99). Since Carla Windermere, a gorgeous African-American FBI agent, and Kirk Stevens, a middle-aged and married investigator with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, first worked together, they've stayed close—though not as close as both suspect they easily could be. While meeting for lunch, the pair witnesses the sniper killing of billionaire Spenser Pyatt and glimpse a boyish killer fleeing the scene. Windermere and Stevens begin tracking the organization responsible, Killswitch, an Internet contract killing business run by Department of Defense contractor Michael Parkerson, whose brainwashing damaged vets into drone-like 'assets.'...Laukkanen keeps readers engaged with a serpentine plot that writhes through high-tech and low-life corruption."—*PW*

Lee, Patrick. [Runner](#) (\$9.99). This is a corker of a series start. Sam Dryden, ex—Special Forces, lives a quiet life in a small town on the coast of Southern California. While out on a run in the middle of the night, he encounters a young girl on the seaside boardwalk. Barefoot and terrified, she's running from a group of heavily armed men with one clear goal: to kill her. Dryden learns that the twelve-year-old can only remember the past two months, during which she's been kept in a secret prison by forces within the government. Beyond her own name, Rachel, she knows only that she has a skill that makes her very dangerous to these men and those in charge of them.

✠Purser, Ann. [Scandal at Six](#) (\$7.99). Spring has arrived in Long Farnden and with it, a mysterious infestation. Lois Meade's daughter has found her village store overrun by insects and reptiles. As Lois looks into the invasion, her investigation leads her to Robert Pettison, a seemingly unhinged zookeeper, and his nephew. The two of them are knee-deep in illegal trade, and they don't take kindly to Lois poking her nose into their business. Lois enlists the help of her faithful cleaner Dot Nimmo and police inspector Hunter Cowgill to discover more about Pettison and a suspicious death at the zoo.

Woods, Stuart. [Carnal Curiosity](#) (\$9.99). "Stone Barrington shows he's one of the smoothest operators around in Edgar-winner Woods's entertaining 29th novel featuring the New York

City attorney. What starts as a business meeting for insurance adjuster Crane Hart ends in Stone's bedroom, but the tryst leads to a confrontation with Hart's estranged husband, Don Dugan, who's stalling on the divorce settlement. Stone handles the oversized Dugan with his usual panache, but when the guests at a ritzy private party are robbed, Stone recognizes one of the crooks as a Dugan henchman. "A subsequent robbery gets even more personal, when someone is able to bypass Stone's state-of-the-art security system in his Manhattan townhouse and steals valuable paintings. Stone needs to draw on all his talents to recover his artwork and lay a trap for highly elusive thieves."—✠ on my secret sin, reading Stuart.

2014 BOOK CLUBS PICKS

British Crime Club One paperback or hardcover per month

Jan.: Doughty, Louise. [Apple Tree Yard](#)

Feb.: Kurland, Michael. [Who Thinks Evil: A Professor Moriarty Mystery](#)

March: Durrant, Sabine. [Under Your Skin](#)

April: Cannell, Dorothy. [Murder at Mullings: A 1930s Country House Murder](#)

May: Beechey, Alan. [This Private Plot](#)

June: Casey, Jane. [The Stranger You Know](#)

July: MacNeal, Susan Elia. [The Prime Minister's Secret Agent](#)

August: Airth, Rennie. [The Reckoning](#)

Sept. Harris, Oliver. [Deep Shelter](#)

Oct.: Weaver, Ashley. [Murder at the Brightwell](#)

Nov.: Lovett, Charlie. [First Impressions](#)

Dec.: Cleverly, Barbara. [Enter Pale Death](#)

First Mystery Club Up to 24 Signed Firsts per year

Axelrod, Steven. [Nantucket Sawbuck](#)

Brooks, Adam. [Night Heron](#)

Chapman, Drew. [The Ascendant](#)

Dicker, Joel. [The Truth about the Harry Quebert Affair](#)

Elo, Elisabeth. [North of Boston](#)

Go, Justin. [The Steady Running of the Hour](#)

Goodman, Lee. [Indefensible](#)

Graedon, Alena. [The Word Exchange](#)

Harrison, Mette Ivie. [The Bishop's Wife](#)

Hayes, Terry. [I Am Pilgrim](#)

Kuhn, Shane. [The Intern's Handbook](#)

La Seur, Carrie. [The Home Place](#)

Lee, Jung Myung. [The Investigation](#)

Little, Elizabeth. [Dear Daughter](#)

McHugh, Laura. [The Weight of Blood](#)

McKenzie, CB. [Bad Country](#)

Moss, Todd. [The Golden Hour](#)

Palmer, Matthew. [The American Mission](#)

Parsons, Kelly. [Doing Harm](#)

Swanson, Peter. [The Girl with a Clock for a Heart](#)

Tucker, Neely. [Ways of the Dead](#)

Fresh Fiction Club One paperback or hardcover per month

Jan.: Jansson, Anna. [Killer's Island](#)

Feb.: Brekke, Jorgen. [Where Monsters Dwell](#)

March: Quartey, Kwei. [Murder at Cape Three Points](#)

April: Bresson, Bernard. [The Greenland Breach](#)

May: Graham, Scott. [Canyon Sacrifice: A National Park Mystery](#)

June: Granotier, Sylvie. [The Paris Lawyer](#)

July: Goodman, Lee. [Indefensible](#)

Aug.: Koenig, Joseph. [Really the Blues](#)
Sept.: Millar, Louise. [The Hidden Girl](#)
Oct.: Yu, Ovidia. [Aunty Lee's Deadly Specials](#)
Nov.: Willis, Lynn Chandler. [Wink of an Eye](#)
Dec.: Truc, Olivier. [Forty Days Without Shadow](#)

Hardboiled Crime Club One Signed First per month

Jan.: Sternbergh, Adam. [Shovel Ready](#)
Feb.: Gailey, Samuel. [Deep Winter](#)
March: Black, Benjamin. [The Black Eyed Blonde](#)
April: Teran, Boston. [The Country I Lived In](#)
May: Hawken, Sam. [Tequila Sunset](#)
June: Flynn, Rory. [The Third Rail](#)
July: Bouman, Tom. [Dry Bones in the Valley](#)
Aug.: Lin, Ed. [Ghost Month](#)
Sept: Whitman, Benjamin. [Cry Father](#)
Oct.: Hoffman, Philip. [The White Van](#)
Nov.: Waite, Urban. [Sometimes the Wolf](#)
Dec.: Rotella, Sebastian. [The Convert's Song](#)

History/Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Jan.: Tobin, Sophia. [The Silversmith's Wife](#)
Feb.: Saylor, Steven. [Raiders of the Nile](#)
March: Nesbit, Tarashea. [The Wives of Los Alamos](#)
April: Hodgson, Antonia. [The Devil in the Marshalsea](#)
May: Downing, David. [Jack of Spies](#)
June: Thomas, Will. [Fatal Enquiry](#)
July: Williams, Beatriz. [The Secret Life of Violet Grant](#)
Aug: Burton, Jessie. [The Miniaturist](#)
Sept.: Liss, David. [Day of Atonement](#)
Oct.: Christie, Alix. [Gutenberg's Apprentice](#)
Nov.: Sykes, Sarah. [Plague Land](#)
Dec.: Rizzolo, SK. [Die I Will Not](#)

History Paperback One per month

Jan.: Myers, Beverle Graves. [Whispers of Vivaldi](#)
Feb.: Chisholm, P F. [Air of Treason: A Sir Robert Carey Mystery](#)
March: Raybourn, Deanna. [City of Jasmine](#)
April: Patel, Shona. [Teatime for the Firefly](#)
May: Harris, Tessa. [The Devil's Breath](#)
June: Freeman, Kimberley. [Ember Island](#)
July: Tualla, Kris. [A Discreet Gentleman of Discovery](#)
Aug.: Pryor, Mark. [The Blood Promise](#)
Sept.: Brouwer, Sigmund. [Thief of Glory](#)
Oct.: Maxwell, Alyssa. [Murder at Marble House](#)
Nov.: Law, Janice. [Moon over Tangier](#)
Dec.: Cabasson, Armand. [Memory of Flames](#)

Modern First Editions One Signed First per month

Jan.: Payton, Brian. [The Wind is Not a River](#)
Feb.: Kidd, Sue Monk. [The Invention of Wings](#)
March: Weir, Andy. [The Martian](#)
April: Zevin, Gabrielle. [The Storied Life of A J Fikry](#)
May: Mones, Nicole. [Night in Shanghai](#)
June: Doerr, Anthony. [All the Light We Cannot See](#)
July: Brooks, Malcolm. [Painted Horses](#)
Aug.: Eve, Nomi. [Henna House](#)
Sept.: Mitchell, David. [The Bone Clocks](#)
Oct.: Christie, Alix. [Gutenberg's Apprentice](#)
Nov.: Morrow, Bradford. [The Forgers](#)
Dec.: No Pick

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club Six Signed Firsts per Year

Aaronovitch, Ben. [Foxglove Summer Rivers of London #5](#)
Owen, Lauren. [The Quick](#)
Harrison, Kim. [Witch with No Name](#)
Mandel, Emily St John. [Station Eleven](#)

Surprise Me! Club One Signed First Per Month

Jan.: Unger, Lisa. [In the Blood](#)
Feb.: Black, Benjamin. [The Black Eyed Blonde](#)
March: LaPlante, Alice. [A Circle of Wives](#)
April: Hewson, David. [House of Dolls](#)
May: Dahl, Julia. [Invisible City](#)
June: Parsons, Tony. [The Murder Bag](#) sold out
US is [The Murder Man](#)
July: Greaves, Chuck. [The Last Heir](#)
Aug.: Slater, Susan. [Rollover](#)
Sept.: Goldberg, Tod. [Gangsterland](#)
Oct.: Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [Truth Be Told](#)
Nov.: Lanh, Andrew. [Caught Dead](#)
Dec.: Estleman, Loren D. [You Know Who Killed Me](#)

Thriller Club One First per month, mostly Signed

Jan.: Katzenbach, John. [Red 1-2-3](#)
Feb.: Lee, Patrick. [Runner](#)
March: Pavone, Chris. [The Accident](#)
April: Hunter, Stephen. [Sniper's Honor](#)
May: Finder, Joseph. [Suspicion](#)
June: Wellington, David. [The Hydra Protocol](#)
July: Silva, Daniel. [The Heist](#)
Aug.: Carroll, James. [Warburg in Rome](#)
Sept.: Limon, Martin. [The Iron Sickle](#)
Oct.: Olsson, Fredrik T. [Chain of Events](#)
Nov.: Cook, Matt. [Sabotage](#)
Dec.: Walker, Casey. [Last Days in Shanghai](#)

NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

Britton, Andrew. [Threatcon Delta](#) (Picador \$9.99) Ryan Kealey thriller
Brown, Duffy. [Geared for the Grave](#) (Berkley \$7.99) First in a bicycling series
Childs, Laura. [Eggs in a Casket](#) (\$7.99) Cackleberry Club #5
Conrad, Hy. [Mr. Monk is Open for Business](#) (Signet \$7.99)
Copperman, E J. [Inspector Specter](#) (Berkley \$7.99) 6th in series. See Event Books
Curtis, Waverly. [Chihuahua Always Sniffs Twice](#) (Kensington \$7.99)
Davis, Krista. [Ghost and Mrs. Mewer](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Paws and Claws #2
Hale, Rebecca M. [Aground on St Thomas](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Mystery in the Islands #3
Hannibal, James R. [Shadow Catcher](#) (\$9.99) Air Force major Nick Baron and his Triple Seven Chase team
Harris, Sherry. [Tagged for Death](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Garage Sale Mystery
Jackson, Lisa. [Wicked Ways](#) (Zebra \$7.99) Suspense
James, Steven. [Checkmate: The Bowers Files](#) (Signet \$9.99) Concludes this thrilling series
Knott, Robert. [Robert B Parker's Bull River](#) (\$9.99) Cole & Hitch
Lavene, Joyce and Jim. [Spell Booked](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Retired Witches Mystery

Lotempio, TC. [Meow If It's Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Starts the Nick and Nora Series (Nick is a cat)
Mansbach, Adam. [Dead Run](#) (Harper \$7.99) Jess Galvin, crime outlaw
Patterson, James. [Gone](#) (\$10) Michael Bennett
Pressy, Rose. [If You've Got it Haunt it](#) (Kensington \$7.99)
Haunted SC Vintage Clothing Store
Van Lustbader, Eric. [Robert Ludlum's the Bourne Ascendancy](#) (\$10)

Reissues

Macomber, Debbie. [Starry Night](#) (\$5.99) Christmas romance/second chance
Meier, Leslie. [Tippy Toe Murder](#) (\$7.99)
Levine, Laura. [PMS Murder](#) (\$7.99)
Connelly, Michael. [Closers](#) (\$10)
Sandford, John. [Certain Prey](#) (\$9.99)

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror, etc

Green, Chris Marie. [Another One Bites the Dust](#) (NAL \$7.99)
Hughes, Alex. [Vacant: A Mindspace Investigation](#) (Roc \$7.99)
Koch, Gini. [Universal Alien](#) (DAW \$7.99)

HISTORY/MYSTERY

✚Asbridge, Thomas. [The Greatest Knight: The Remarkable Life of William Marshal, the Power Behind Five English Thrones](#) (Ecco \$27.99). The life of William (the) Marshall, the Lancelot of his age and all ages (without the Guinevere story, for he was faithful and true), surpasses the stuff of fiction. I've always thought of him as the embodiment of the chivalric ideal. Asbridge restores him to modern memory. "A rich and elaborate tapestry... a story about how medieval knighthood worked; the interlocking web of obligation and fealty, friendship and loyalty... will appeal to history buffs as well as fans of fiction set in the medieval period."—*LJ* Starred Review

Blackwell, Elizabeth. [While Beauty Slept](#) (\$16). "In this retelling of the Sleeping Beauty story as seen through the eyes of Elise, a loyal servant and confidante to the royal family, readers follow Elise as she strives to learn how to be a servant while rising quickly through the ranks, balancing her new life as a friend to the queen with her downstairs friendships with maids and servants. Royal intrigue mingles with fairy tale lore and when the curse falls, as readers know it will, it is unexpected and heartrending. Even if at times the story appears to be following a predictable route, the surprises keep coming, and events dance around one another to form a new path to the climax. Blackwell, previously a reporter and romance writer, makes her historical fiction debut with a gripping tale full of romance, secrets, and promises made and broken. This beautiful, original reinterpretation of a classic story is engrossing and often surprising. Recommended for fans of fairy tale retellings or gothic historical fiction."—*LJ* Starred Review

Cabasson, Armand. [Memory of Flames](#) (Gallic \$15.95). "The Tsar had long dreamt of taking Paris in revenge for Moscow..." March 1814. With the allied armies of Russia, Austria and Prussia advancing, Paris is in real danger of falling to occupying forces for the first time in 400 years. But at a moment when all efforts should be directed towards the defense of the city, Joseph Bonaparte is concerned with the murder of a retired colonel, and orders Lieutenant Colonel Quentin Margont to conduct a

secret investigation into his death. Once again Armand Cabasson marries his phenomenal knowledge of the Napoleonic period with his psychiatric expertise to write the final installment in the Napoleonic Murders series. **Our December History/Mystery Paperback Pick.**

✚Doherty, Paul. [The Book of Fires: Brother Athelstan](#) (Severn \$29.95). February, 1381. A ruthless killer known as the Ignifer – Fire Bringer – is rampaging through London, bringing agonizing death and destruction in his wake. He appears to be targeting all those involved in the recent trial and conviction of the beautiful Lady Isolda Beaumont, burned at the stake for the murder of her husband. As the late Sir Walter Beaumont was a close friend of the Regent, John of Gaunt orders Sir John Cranston and Brother Athelstan to investigate. In the dead man's possession was a copy of the mysterious 'Book of Fires', containing the secret formula of a devastating weapon, the so-called Greek Fire. The manuscript has since disappeared, and Gaunt is desperate for it not to fall into the hands of the Upright Men, who are busy plotting the Great Revolt. Was Isolda really guilty of murder? Who is the terrifying Fire Bringer – and what does he want?

Ellsworth, Lawrence. [The Big Book of Swashbuckling Adventure](#) (Pegasus \$25). Fabulous escapades, derring-do, great escapes. A wonderful collection. See Gifts for more.

Hambly, Barbara. [Crimson Angel: A Benjamin January](#) (Severn \$29.95). When Jefferson Vitrack – the white half-brother of Benjamin January's wife—turns up on January's doorstep in the summer of 1838 claiming he has discovered a clue to the whereabouts of the family's lost treasure, January has no hesitation about refusing to help look for it. For the treasure lies in Haiti, the island that was once France's most profitable colony – until the blood-chilling repression practiced there by the whites upon their slaves triggered a savage rebellion. The world's only Black Republic still looks with murderous mistrust upon any strangers who might set foot there, and January is in no hurry to go. But when Vitrack is murdered, and attempts are made on January's wife and himself, he understands that he has no choice. He must seek the treasure himself, to draw the unknown killers into the open, a bloody trail that leads first to Cuba, then to Haiti, and finally to.... This is a fine series I've always enjoyed. Ordered Upon Request.

✚Hauser, Thomas. [The Final Recollections of Charles Dickens](#) (Counterpoint \$23). The *PW* Starred Review: "Before Charles Dickens became a famous British novelist he was a struggling London journalist, inspired by the poverty, disease, hunger, and despair of the city's lower classes, and exposed to the arrogance and indifference of the rich. The core of this historical novel, however, focuses on the year 1836, when Dickens is introduced by his editor, George Hogarth, to a wealthy financier, Geoffrey Wingate. With Hogarth's blessing, Wingate encourages Dickens to write about him and his investment business in the Evening Chronicle, for the dual purpose of attracting readers and advancing Wingate's business interests. Wingate is hoping to use the young, naïve journalist to lure rich clients. Dickens's initial inquiries reveal much about Wingate's business, including a rumor that he once killed a man. Intrigued, Dickens investigates further, uncovering cold-blooded murder and mutilation, eventually finding an honest policeman in Inspector Ellsworth of the Metropolitan Police Force, and the two men work tirelessly to unmask

a clever swindler and vicious killer. Complications arise when Dickens falls hopelessly in love with Amanda, Wingate's wife."... *Library Journal* adds, "Charles Dickens still has one more story to tell. And what a story it is—fit for the plot of a classic Dickens composition... Hauser's mastery of Dickensian language and dramatic flair creates engaging historical fiction, and his depiction of Dickens's social philosophy of championing the poor will resonate with contemporary readers who are concerned about income inequality. Fans of the 19th-century author or of well-researched historical fiction will savor this work."

Inbinder, Gary. [The Devil in Montmartre](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). Amid the hustle and bustle of the Paris 1889 Universal Exposition, workers discover the mutilated corpse of a popular model and Moulin Rouge Can-Can dancer in a Montmartre sewer. Hysterical rumors swirl that Jack the Ripper has crossed the Channel, and Inspector Achille Lefebvre enters the Parisian underworld to track down the brutal killer. His suspects are the artist Toulouse-Lautrec; Jojo, an acrobat at the Circus Fernando, and Sir Henry Collingwood, a mysterious English gynecologist and amateur artist. Pioneering the as-yet-untried system of fingerprint detection and using cutting edge forensics, including crime scene photography, anthropometry, pathology, laboratory analysis, Achille attempts to separate the innocent from the guilty. But he must work quickly before the "Paris Ripper" strikes again.

Kilmeade, Brian. [George Washington's Secret Six](#) (\$16). Read about the spy ring that saved the American Revolution. "Anyone who believes that foreign espionage is pointless should read this book. More importantly, anyone who thinks the founding generation is irrelevant to modern America must read this book." —*The Daily Caller*

✦ Lloyd, Catherine. [Death Comes to London](#) (Kensington \$15). Lucy Harrington and her younger sister, Anna, travel from their home in tiny Kurland St. Mary to 1817 London where they hope to find a suitable husband for Anna through the patronage of their uncle, the Earl of Clavelly. Meanwhile, their irascible neighbor, Maj. Robert Kurland, receives a letter from the Prince Regent, who wishes to make him a baronet for his heroism at Waterloo. Robert would say no, but in the end he follows the Harrington sisters to London, where he soon runs into an old army colleague, Lieutenant Broughton. Soon after, Broughton's sharp-tongued grandmother is accused of stealing jewels and dies under odd circumstances along with Broughton's wastrel brother... A pleasant Regency but not up to the weight of Barron's Jane Austen or Rizzolo's trio of sleuths.

✦ Marston, Edward. [Deeds of Darkness Signed](#) (Allison \$45). In June 1916, a young woman is found murdered in a cinema. Harvey Marmion and Joe Keedy set out to find the killer who so elusively fled in the dark. Before long, two more victims, of striking similarity but differing backgrounds, are found dead around the city. Meanwhile, miles from home, Marmion's son Paul prepares for life on the front line as he marches towards the Battle of the Somme. Suffering a vicious blow in No Man's Land, Paul is left blinded for the rest of his life. Marmion must come to terms with the permanent darkness of his son's life, while continuing to search for the brutal killer who only strikes in the dark... A Homefront Mystery.

✦ Nickson, Chris. [Gods of Gold](#) (Severn \$28.95). June 1890. Leeds is close to breaking point. The gas workers are on strike. Supplies are dangerously low. Factories and businesses are clos-

ing; the lamps are going unlit at night. Detective Inspector Tom Harper has more urgent matters on his mind. The beat constable claims eight-year-old Martha Parkinson has disappeared. Her father insists she's visiting an aunt in Halifax – but Harper doesn't believe him. When Col Parkinson is found dead the following morning, the case takes on an increasing desperation. But then Harper's search for Martha is interrupted by the murder of a replacement gas worker, stabbed to death outside the Town Hall while surrounded by a hostile mob. Pushed to find a quick solution, Harper discovers that there's more to this killing than meets the eye – and that there may be a connection to Martha's disappearance. Starts a new Victorian series. Ordered Upon Request.

Ramsay, Frederick. [The Wolf and the Lamb](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.95). It's Passover. Pontius Pilate has been framed for murder while outside the Antonia Fortress, High Priest Caiaphas is framing that irritating messiah he is determined to martyr despite Rabban Gamaliel's advice he should not. See Our November Trade Paperback Picks.

✦ Robertson, Imogen. [The Paris Winter](#) (St. Martins \$25.99). The December Indie Next Pick: "In 1909 Paris, a Russian princess, a French model, and a young Englishwoman meet at Académie Lafond, a school for aspiring female artists. It was a time when it was a woman's duty to marry and support her husband in his career and become the work of art, not the artist. These fictional characters are inspired by real women such as Suzanne Valadon, a friend and muse to Toulouse Lautrec; Ada Leigh, who ran a house for penniless English and American women in Paris; and Gertrude Stein, whose salon paintings noted in *The Paris Winter* were Picasso's. The reader, drawn into the underbelly of Paris with its backdrop of opium addiction, murder, and revenge, will be haunted by this tale long after the last page is turned."

✦ Rizzolo, Suzanne. [Die I Will Not](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Today's "Austenland" features light-hearted dramas. And women dream of a Mr. Darcy. They don't dream of what it was like to choose the wrong partner—or have no partner. They don't dream of no control of their property, or their children. Jane Austen's world was still a man's world. Readers of CS Harris and Stephanie Barron know there was a dark side to the Regency where poverty, politics, passions, and privileges roiled England. The French had had their revolution. Would the British avoid one? Penelope Wolfe, a young wife and mother who married unwisely—an artist, no family man—and must live with the consequences, fears scandal will engulf her family when revelations about her father circulate in 1813 London. They include seditious writings and an unsolved murder. Penelope can't turn to an established police force. So she enlists firebrand lawyer Edward Buckler and Bow Street Runner John Chase, her allies in two earlier investigations into murder. The men put their careers at risk supporting Penelope while trying to identify a new killer and the one who's escaped justice so long... "Rizzolo vividly depicts Regency London through her trio of contrasting but equally likable protagonists—Penelope, Buckler, and Chase."—*PW*. In trade paperback also: [Die I Will Not](#) (\$14.95). Start with [The Rose in the Wheel](#) (\$14.95), Penelope's first investigation. **Our December History/Mystery Pick.**

Rowland, Laura Joh. [The Iris Fan Signed](#) (St Martins \$28). It's 1709. The shogun, master and enemy of Sano Ichiro, is dying. Events in previous books see Sano, once the Shogun's inves-

tigator, then chamberlain, reduced to lowly patrol guard. His marriage to Reiko is in tatters. His enemies Yanagisawa and Lord Ienobu appear to have formed an alliance that leaves Sano puzzled—and wary. Sano’s longtime lieutenant Hirata is plotting against the regime. Yet bushido, the Way of the Warrior, keeps Sano loyal to his Samurai code of honor. Then the shogun is stabbed, in his palace with a fan of painted silk having sharpened iron ribs, and Sano is restored to his chief investigator’s role to catch the culprit. But he also has to match wits with his enemies and fear the displeasure of the shogun’s heir.... This is the final chapter in a splendid series brilliantly bringing feudal Japan alive. I have sucked up every single one of the previous 17 novels, plus this one. [Click here](#) to order earlier Sano investigations.

✠Sansom, C.J. [Dominion](#) (\$17). What if appeasers overcame Churchill and Britain is ruled by the Nazis? And what if...? See our December Trade Paperback Picks.

Sidebottom, Harry. [The Amber Road Warrior of Rome: Book 6](#) (\$16.95). In AD 264, the Roman Empire has been torn in two. The western provinces—Gaul, Spain and Britain—have been seized by Postumus, the pretender to the throne. To the east, on the plains of northern Italy, the armies of the emperor Gallienus muster and he is keen to take his rightful place of power. A war between two emperors is coming and everyone must choose a side. On a mission shrouded in secrecy and suspicion, Ballista is sent by Gallienus back to his original home of Hyperborea, the place of the people of his birth to raise an army against Postumus. This means that Ballista must journey along The Amber Road to the far north....

Taber, George M. [Chasing Gold](#) (Pegasus \$29.95). Gold was the instrument that Hitler needed to make his dreams a reality. Taber provides a detailed account of the German economists—some committed Nazis, and others merely technocrats—who helped Hitler obtain the reserves he needed. “Taber reveals one of WWII’s darkest secrets in this compulsively readable, real-life thriller of how the Nazis funded their war machine. Meticulous research. Those with an interest in war crimes will relish Taber’s masterful reportage and the unearthing of these wartime treasures.”—*PW*

✠Thomas, Donald. [Death on a Pale Horse](#) (\$15.95). Sherlock Holmes is “hot on the trail of a criminal mastermind almost as dangerous as Professor Moriarty, Colonel Rawdon Moran, formerly of the British Army, whose plot to acquire gold and diamond mines in southern Africa involves manufacturing a war designed to bring Britain to its knees. A fellow whose maniacal scheme rivals that of your typical James Bond villain (the book’s subtitle, *Sherlock Holmes on Her Majesty’s Secret Service*, makes an obvious Bond reference), Moran is a worthy adversary for Holmes, a fiendishly clever foe with a seemingly limitless capacity for evil. But Holmes, of course, has his own weapon, his powerful intellect (and, in this case, that of his brilliant brother, Mycroft, too), and he demonstrates once again why he always comes out on top. Thomas, who’s written a handful of Holmes stories, does an excellent job of re-creating the feel of Conan Doyle’s originals—Dr. Watson’s first-person narration is particularly spot-on—while looking at Holmes from fresh angles.”—*Booklist*